

cando

# CONNECT

JAN/FEB 2020 | Vol. 6 No. 5

magazine

→ Moving Indigenous Economies Forward



**Indigenous  
Homes  
Innovation  
Initiative**

**BC Links  
to Learning**

**NIEEF  
Scholarship  
Recipients**

# building brighter futures

Bursaries, Scholarships, and Awards



## CIBC NIEEF Scholarships

This award will be distributed annually to a first-year Indigenous student who is studying in a four-year degree program studying in the fields of: Business Administration/Economics, Business Finance, Business Management, Natural Resources or Community Economic Development.

## CIBC NIEEF Scholarships

This award will be distributed annually to Indigenous students who are studying in a two-year diploma program studying in the fields of: Business Administration/Economics, Business Finance, Business Management, Natural Resources or CED.

## CIBC NIEEF Scholarships

This award will be distributed annually to an Indigenous student who is studying in any year of a two-year diploma or four-year degree program studying in the fields of: Business Administration/Economics, Business Finance, Business Management, Natural Resources or CED. This student will receive the CANDO funds and the matched funds and the successful candidate will only be eligible for this specific award once.



**Program of Study:** Business Administration/Economics, Business Finance, Business Management, Natural Resources or Community Economic Development  
**Level of Study:** Entering first year of a four-year degree program

**Two Awards: \$10,000 per year for up to 4 years per student**

**Program of Study:** Business Administration/Economics, Business Finance, Business Management, Natural Resources or CED

**Level of Study:** Two-year or four-year program.

**Four Awards: \$5,000 per year for up to 2 years per student**

**Program of Study:** Business Administration/Economics, Business Finance, Business Management, Natural Resources or CED

**Level of Study:** Any year of a two-year or four-year program.

**One Award: \$4,000 for one year**

**Application Deadlines:** February 1  
August 1  
November 1

[indspirefunding.ca/cando](http://indspirefunding.ca/cando)



- 2019 Women in Business Panel – pages 50-51
- 2019 National Youth Panel – pages 52-53
- 2019 TAED & PAED Graduation Ceremony – pages 54-55
- 2019 Economic Developer of the Year Awards – pages 56-57

Cover image: Alex Wells - from the Lil'wat Nation, Mount Currie, B.C. - was the featured dancer/performer at BC Links to Learning's Cultural and Networking event. More photos on pages 22 & 23.

Photo: Paul Macedo

*Cando Connect* Magazine is produced by Cando under the direction of Paul Macedo, Communications Officer.

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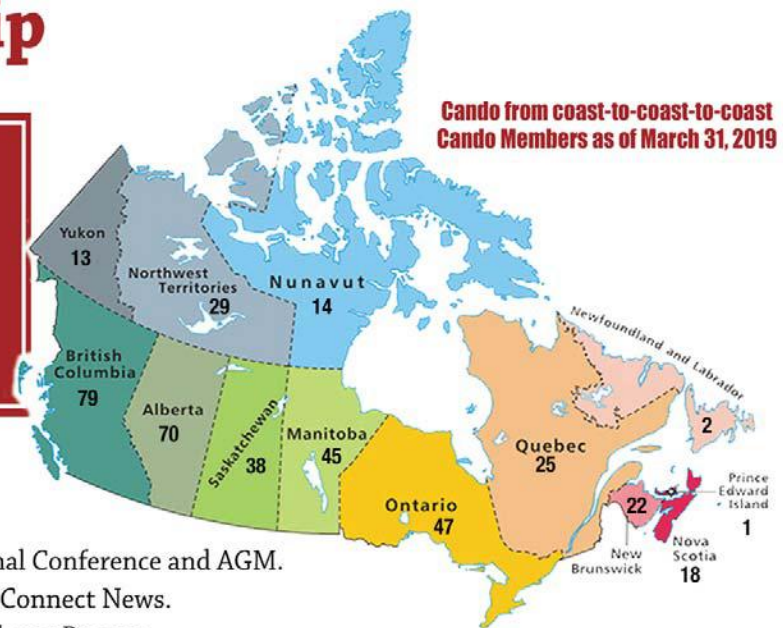
# WIN \$2,000

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- Be a paid Cando member by Aug. 1, 2020 to win \$1,500.
- Be a paid Cando Member by Oct. 1, 2020 to win \$1,000.

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Organization Membership - \$315



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- Access to the Certified Aboriginal Economic Developer Process.
- Discount subscription to Cando's Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development, the only journal of its kind in Canada.
- Opportunity to advertise events and services through Cando's nation-wide network.
- Voting privileges at Cando's national and regional meetings (Full Members only).
- Access to Cando's bookstore and resources.

To learn more about becoming a member OR to join visit:  
[www.edo.ca/about-cando/membership](http://www.edo.ca/about-cando/membership)

  
Inspiring Success

**This draw will be made in October 2020 - the winner will be announced at the 2020 Cando conference.**

# New partnerships for 2020

It's 2020! How are your resolutions holding up? Cando has resolved to make 2020 even more incredible than 2019 for it's members and partners!

Cando is pleased to announce that it has partnered with **CIBC** to develop the **CIBC NIEEF Scholarships**. In association with **Indspire's Building Brighter Futures Scholarship Program**, the **CIBC NIEEF Scholarships** will award \$44,000 each year for the next four years. This award will be distributed annually to Indigenous students studying in a two-year diploma or four-year degree program in the fields of: Business Administration/Economics, Business Finance, Business Management, Natural Resources or Community Economic Development. Please see the ad on page 2 of this issue. The **Indspire** application deadlines are February 1, August 1, and November 1 of each year.

Cando was proud to partner with the **National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association (NALMA)** and **Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)** to deliver the 7th Annual BC Links to Learning event in Vancouver, B.C. The training and learning event was held December 3&4 at the Westin Bayshore. Please turn to pages 18 - 35 for photos and complete event coverage.

The 26th Annual Cando Conference was an amazing event with more than 250 delegates plus speakers and guests. The event was held in Gatineau, Quebec on ancestral unceded lands of the Algonquin Anishnabeg. If you missed it, there's full coverage of the Cando Conference in this issue.

- Women in Business Panel photos on pages 50-51
- National Youth Panel photos on pages 52-53
- Economic Developer of the Year Awards photos on pages 56-57 with profiles on all finalists on pages 68 - 75

Cando was also proud to be a partner with **Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)** for the **Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative**. This initiative aims to support the voices and ideas of Indigenous peoples directly, and complement the Government of Canada's investments to improve housing conditions in Indigenous communities. A Steering Committee reviewed 342 applications and 24 Indigenous innovators were selected to move forward in developing their ideas.

The 24 innovators come from all regions of Canada and their ideas cover a range of new ways to respond to Indigenous social and housing needs. The selected innovators took part in the 'Accelerator' period, which began at the Tigh-Na-Mara Conference Centre in Parksville, British Columbia. The Accelerator will provide the innovators with mentoring support from Indigenous architects and other professionals to refine their ideas into implementable projects. Please turn to pages 6 - 15 for photos and complete coverage.

We are working hard to develop more opportunities for learning/training for 2020. We will keep you informed as events/opportunities are confirmed!

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

# Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative



Indigenous Steering Committee: (left to right) Sean Willy, Will Goodon, Pamela Glode-Desrochers, Marcel Lawson-Swain, Dawn Madahbee Leach. Terry Audla is not pictured.



**INDIGENOUS  
HOMES INNOVATION  
INITIATIVE**  
impact.canada.ca



Canada

Elders Jim Bob and Ann Bob welcomed participants of the Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative 'Accelerator' event to traditional Snaw-naw-as First Nation Territory, at Tigh-Na-Mara Conference Centre in Parksville, British Columbia.

## Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative

# Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative



The Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services, congratulated 24 Indigenous innovators on moving forward in developing their ideas under the Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative on January 20, 2020.

The 24 innovators come from all regions of Canada and their ideas cover a range of new ways to respond to Indigenous social and housing needs.

The selected innovators are now taking part in the 'Accelerator' period, which took place from Jan. 20-23 at the Tigh-Na-Mara Conference Centre in Parksville, British Columbia. The Accelerator will provide the innovators with mentoring support from Indigenous architects and other professionals to refine their ideas into implementable projects.

The Innovation Initiative's Indigenous Steering Committee, comprising First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation experts in infrastructure and housing, selected the 24 innovators out of the 342 who had submitted ideas to the Initiative.

Innovators will spend up to 18 months working with experts during the Accelerator period. Innovators that complete the Accelerator period and successfully demonstrate that their proposal is ready for implementation will receive implementation funding. Lessons learned from the Accelerator will also provide useful information for Indigenous communities toward addressing their housing needs.

The Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative aims to support the voices and ideas of Indigenous peoples directly, and complement the Government of Canada's investments to improve housing conditions in Indigenous communities. Supporting creative approaches and bringing forward new ideas from Indigenous people will help spark changes that can lead to better housing and social conditions.

## QUICK FACTS

- The Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative is a partnership between Indigenous Services Canada, Infrastructure Canada, and the Privy Council Office's Impact and Innovation Unit.
- In April 2019, the Government of Canada launched the Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative to support innovative Indigenous-led housing ideas. Of 342 applicants, 24 were selected by the Initiative's Indigenous Steering Committee to enter the Accelerator period of the Innovation Initiative.
- The Accelerator is administered by the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO), along with the Indigenous Steering Committee and the applicants themselves.
- Accelerator partners include the Indigenous Task Force of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, Vancouver Island University, McEwen School of Architecture (Laurentian University), MASS Design Group, Ecotrust Canada, Indigenous Clean Energy Network and the Aboriginal Savings Corporation of Canada.
- \$6 million is available to support the 24 innovators during the Accelerator process. This will be followed by \$30 million for the implementation of projects that meet the second selection process requirements.
- This \$36 million is in addition to the Government's more than \$2.5 billion in housing investments in Indigenous communities since 2016 to support tens of thousands of new builds and renovations, as well as capacity building projects.

## Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative

January/February 2020

7

edo.ca

# Community Tour: Nanaimo Passive House



The participants of the Accelerator Program were taken on a tour of several innovative housing projects in Nanaimo tailored to Indigenous residents.

One stop on the tour included the Nanaimo Passive House - a culturally responsive build environment for an Indigenous community - built and operated by the non-profit Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre. The 24 unit complex featured shared meeting spaces and common areas with smaller units for youth in transition and elders and larger units for young families.

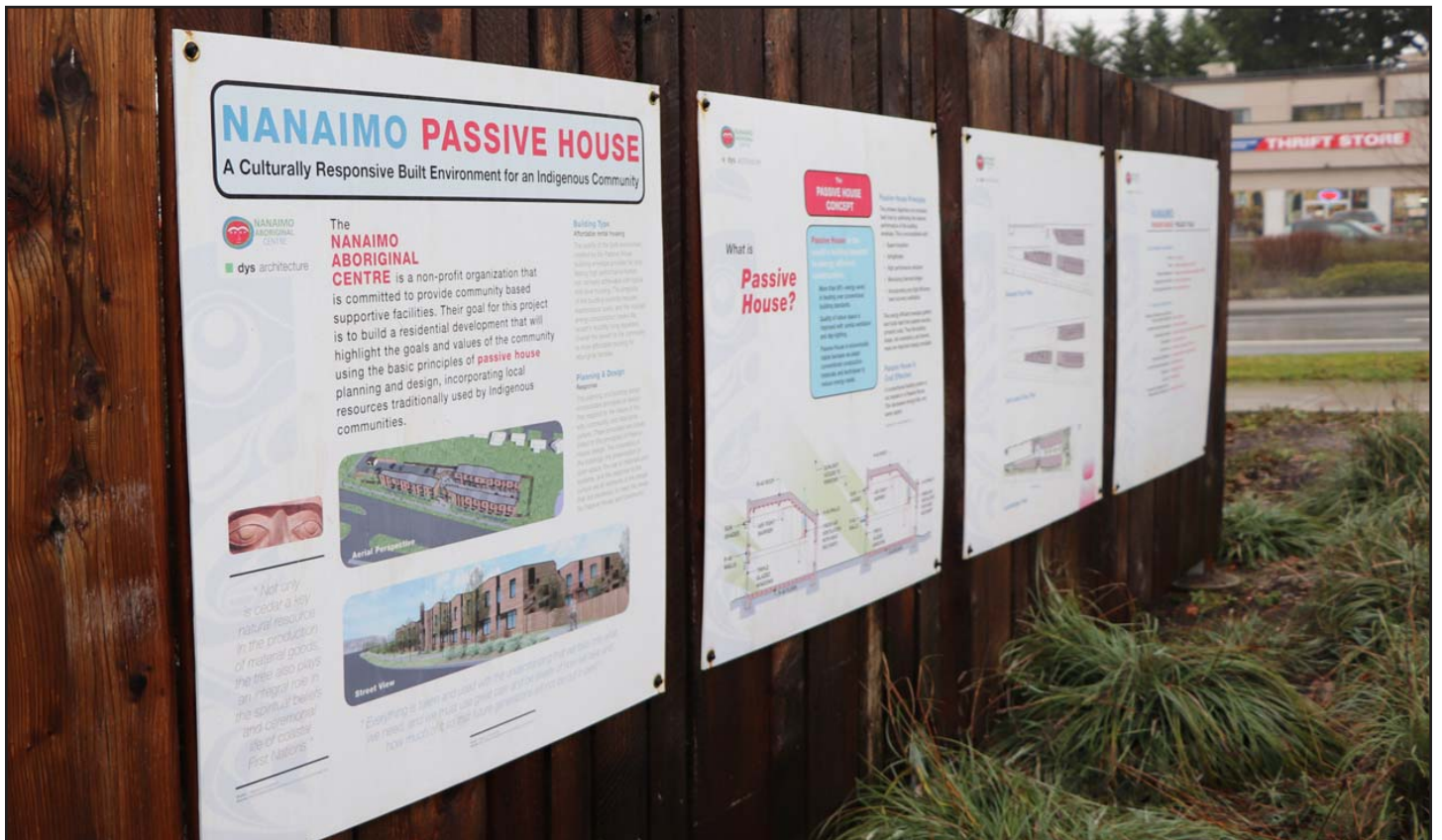
The Nanaimo Passive House is less than 8 months old and was built on under-utilized parcel of land donated by the City of Nanaimo. The design allows for greater energy efficiencies and reduced monthly utility costs and also pays homage to the traditional long house structures of Coast Salish peoples.



Photos: Paul Macedo

## Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative





Photos: Paul Macedo



## Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative



### The Accelerator Period Begins

Of the 342 applicants, 24 were selected by the Initiative's Indigenous Steering Committee to enter the Accelerator period of the Innovation Initiative. The innovators will now spend up to 18 months working with experts on refining their ideas. Innovators that successfully complete the Accelerator period and develop their ideas into fully implementable proposals will move to the second-stage screening.

During the Accelerator period, the 24 selected Indigenous innovators will spend up to 18 months working with experts on refining their ideas. Innovators that successfully complete the Accelerator period and develop their ideas into fully implementable proposals will move to the second-stage screening.

### Yukon

- Nelson Lepine from the Carcross/Tagish Management Corporation (Carcross, Yukon) will work with 14 First Nation communities to develop an innovative Prefabricated Building Manufacturing Plant. The plant will address housing needs by supporting training, innovation, manufacturing and production. The project will be developed in close collaboration with Yukon College to maximize apprenticeship learning opportunities in housing and research and development for northern housing. Focus area: Using the home for empowerment, capacity and support for local business in Indigenous housing.

### Northwest Territories

- James Caesar from the K'asho Gotine Housing Society (Fort Good Hope, Northwest Territories) will design and develop a home repair and maintenance education program and an innovative model to procure housing materials. This innovative idea will provide hands-on experience for local skilled tradespeople and address barriers to accessing housing materials.

Focus area: Using the home for empowerment, capacity and support for local business in Indigenous housing

### Nunavut

- Chelsea Singoorie will receive support to develop a construction apprentice program for young adults to support the Qaggiq Project in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, an idea to build tiny homes around a communal gathering space to address overcrowding and homelessness.

Focus area: Using the home for empowerment, capacity and support for local business in Indigenous housing

### British Columbia

- Lucy Gagnon from Wisset First Nation (Moricetown, British Columbia) will receive support to develop their idea of a restorative healing lodge and residence for Indigenous youth aged 12 to 18. The lodge will incorporate an Indigenous approach to rehabilitating Indigenous youth such as talking circles, Elder supports, sweat lodges with sweetgrass, and cultural outdoor activities. It will also include a social enterprise component—gardening as a form of therapy but also as a source of food for lodge residents.

Focus area: Support for vulnerable populations



### British Columbia

• Carrigan Tallio from Nuxalk Nation (Bella Coola, British Columbia) will receive support to design an Elders' Village, a family-centered housing community that supports intergenerational living, flexible community spaces and traditional art, culture and natural landscape in the design. The idea moves away from western nuclear housing and brings forward the community practices used by Nuxalkmc ancestral ways of living.

Focus area: Traditional First Nation, Métis Nation and Inuit building styles, designs and techniques

### British Columbia

• Blair Bellerose from Lu'ma Native Housing Society (Vancouver, British Columbia) will receive support to develop an affordable Indigenous-led and owned mixed-use housing complex for the Indigenous community in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. The complex includes a healing centre, food centre, health and wellbeing centre, supported adult housing units, and affordable rental units for low-income families. The complex will incorporate cultural elements such as the longhouse form with a Coast Salish Blanket pattern by local Indigenous artists. □Focus area: Creating welcoming urban spaces for First Nation, MÉtis Nation and Inuit individuals

### British Columbia

• Chief Gordon Planes from the Centres for Indigenous Sustainability (T'Sou-ke Nation, Iaq-am Nation, Tseycum Nation, Tla-o-qui-aht Nation, Sooke, Cranbrook and Saanich, British Columbia) will receive support to build housing for an

aging population, so they do not have to leave their communities as they age. This innovative idea also aims to build capacity and empower community members through the development of the training program with academic and technical partners.

Focus area: Using the home for empowerment, capacity and support for local business in Indigenous housing

### Alberta

• Katie Rabbit-Young Pine from the Changing Horses NPF Society (Blood Tribe, Kainai, Treaty 7 Territory, Southern Alberta) will receive support to design and develop a supportive housing complex with single homes placed around a central gathering space. The complex will include a community hub to provide services for harm reduction and a tipi area for ceremonies and cultural teachings accommodating the therapeutic needs of community members. The project will adopt a Housing First Approach using Blackfoot cultural teachings to build and strengthen the community and support healing.

Focus area: Support for vulnerable populations



## Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative



### Alberta

- Natoshia Bastien from Whitefish Lake First Nation (Standoff, Alberta) will receive support to establish a band-owned housing development company and mortgage corporation that will enable the Nation to finance the design and construction of homes on its territory. This idea will support community vision for self-reliance and economic sustainability and help retain younger generations in the community by providing them with housing options.

Focus area: Using the home for empowerment, capacity and support for local business in Indigenous housing

### Alberta

- Rodrick Saddleback from Samson Cree Nation (Maskwacis, Alberta) will receive support to develop a prototype of a multi-generational home which includes independent living space for elders and communal space to support ceremonial and spiritual practices. The design seeks to maximize energy efficiency by incorporating solar energy and extend the life of the home by selecting durable materials, such as hempcrete walls.

Focus area: Traditional First Nation, Métis Nation and Inuit building styles, designs and techniques

### Saskatchewan

- Cynthia Desjarlais from Muskowekwan First Nation (Treaty 4 Territory, Saskatchewan) will receive support to develop a Family Healing and Wellness Centre to accommodate families with intergenerational trauma. This idea will create an environment where First Nations families can stay together and heal through a culturally responsive approach.

Focus area: Support for vulnerable populations

### Saskatchewan

- Kelly Pruden from the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan) will receive support to develop a culturally appropriate Elders' residence with wrap-around health and cultural supports. The residence will enable Métis seniors to live independently in an environment that provides services to address age-related challenges.

Focus area: Support for vulnerable populations

### Saskatchewan

- Tavia Laliberte from the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (Saskatchewan) will receive support to design and develop a multi-unit student housing complex in Saskatoon or Regina to provide a home away from home and safe and culturally-relevant living spaces for Indigenous students studying at the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and offer wrap-around cultural supports. The design will include innovative, sustainable and energy-efficient materials.

Focus area: Creating welcoming urban spaces for First Nation, Métis Nation and Inuit individuals



### Manitoba

• Brad Boudreau from the Manitoba Metis Federation (Winnipeg, Manitoba) will receive support to design a housing complex to temporarily accommodate Métis citizens travelling to Winnipeg to access healthcare. The complex will have the capacity to house several families simultaneously in private living quarters complemented by shared kitchen and living spaces.

Focus area: Support for vulnerable populations

### Manitoba

• Natasha Spence from Opaskwayak Cree Nation (Treaty 5 Territory, Manitoba) will receive support to develop the design of a 'universal utility core' and a facility to produce it for local homes. The innovative idea of a 'universal utility core' would house all heating, ventilation, plumbing and electrical components of homes.

Focus area: Energy independence and efficiency

### Manitoba

• Mona Buors from the Manitoba Metis Federation (Winnipeg, Manitoba) will receive support to develop a culturally safe urban transition facility to serve Métis youth aging out of Child and Family Services support. The project envisions a dorm-style complex with private rooms, shared laundry facilities, a communal kitchen, dining hall and living space. Wrap-around support services will be made available to help youth heal from trauma, reconnect with their culture and transition to life on their own.

Focus area: Support for vulnerable populations

### Ontario

• Patti Pettigrew from Thunder Woman Healing Lodge Society (Toronto, Ontario) will receive support to advance the design and development of the Thunder Woman Healing Lodge, a complex that will offer counselling, support and long-term housing for Indigenous women transitioning from a corrections facility to the community.

Focus area: Support for vulnerable populations

### Ontario

• Kim Sigurdson from Pikangikum First Nation - Health Authority in partnership with Indigenous Innovations Corporation (Ontario) will receive support with the design and development of its 'Community Safe Village'. The idea aims to provide safe, transitional, emergency housing with professional and culturally sensitive support for community members escaping violence.

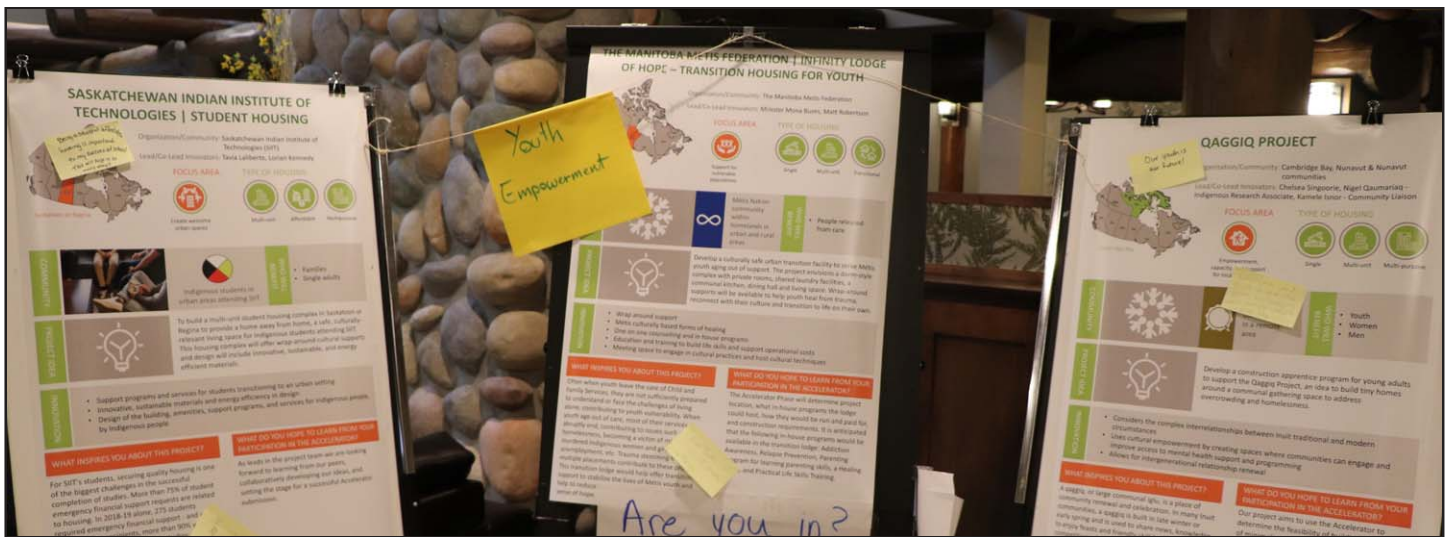
Focus area: Support for vulnerable populations

### Ontario

• David L. Flood from Wahkohtowin Development General Partnership Incorporated (Chapleau, Ontario) will receive support to develop the idea of a "tree to home" supply chain that uses local resources and labour to meet local demand and address housing needs with adaptive, energy efficient, and custom-designed homes. The project will develop custom-designed homes through partnership with Boreal Products and Hornepayne Lumber. Homes will be constructed using Boreal Products' thermo-log technology.

Focus area: Using the home for empowerment, capacity and support for local business in Indigenous housing

## Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative



**Ontario**

- Kathy Fortin from the North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre (North Bay, Ontario) will receive support to develop their ‘Suswin Village’ idea. Suswin, which means ‘nest’ in Ojibway, will provide a safe, accessible and dignified housing solution for Indigenous community members who are ready to leave the emergency shelter system. Suswin Village will provide them with stable housing and individualized wrap-around support services necessary to find permanent housing, employment and overall long-term success and stability in the community.

Focus area: Support for vulnerable populations

**Ontario**

- Indigenous Clean Energy Social Enterprise will receive support for an innovative idea to transform homes in the communities of Fishing Lake Métis Settlement (Alberta), Red Rock Indian Band (Ontario), and the new lands of Animbiigoo Zaagi’igan Anishinaabek (Ontario) to be healthy, energy efficient, culturally appropriate, and durable. Experiences will be shared through the Bringing It Home initiative. This idea focuses on three key outcomes: high-efficiency building standards and training for construction, trades, and home.

Focus area: Energy independence and efficiency.

**Quebec**

- Dennis Nicholas from the Waseskun Healing Community (Saint-Alphonse-Rodriguez, Quebec) will receive support to develop a new housing complex to accommodate elderly Indigenous men transferring from correctional custody and provide wrap-around services to support their transition to community life.

Focus area: Support for vulnerable populations

**Quebec**

- Vanessa Pien from Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach (Quebec) will receive support to develop her idea of a mixed-use building that combines residential and commercial purposes with the ground level reserved for local businesses, and the second floor for small apartments for young people and single parents.

Focus area: Using the home for empowerment, capacity and support for local business in Indigenous housing

**Atlantic**

- Chris Jadis from Abegweit First Nation - Scotchfort Reserve, Stewart (Prince Edward Island) will receive support for the design and development of a multi-unit, passive solar housing complex to accommodate young, single adults and three or four families. The build aims to support energy independence and incorporate energy efficiencies to minimize energy costs. The idea aims to get the complex certified to meet Canadian passive house standards.

Focus area: Energy independence and efficiency



Indigenous Services Canada

Services aux Autochtones Canada



A group photo of the 24 Indigenous Innovators at Tigh-Na-Mara in Parksville, British Columbia on January 23, 2020.



A photo of the Indigenous Innovators along with mentors and partners at Tigh-Na-Mara in Parksville, British Columbia on January 23, 2020.

# Co-operatives First organization supports business development

**By Sam Laskaris  
Cando Contributor**

As its name suggests, Co-operatives First continues to be a rather co-operative organization.

The Saskatoon-based organization, now in its third year of existence, provides information for all those who are considering the co-op model.

“A large part of our mandate is education and support,” said Dan Matthews, who is Co-operatives First’s manager of strategy and communications.

The organization’s priority is to increase economic development through promoting and supporting co-op business development in Indigenous communities and rural areas across the country’s four western provinces; British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

But Co-operatives First’s online resources and services are available to those in other parts of the country.

Co-operatives First is funded by the Co-operative Retailing System and Federated Co-operatives Limited.

Co-operatives First works in partnership with various businesses and organizations that are starting up. While officials from these businesses and groups generally have a good grasp of how things work, Co-operatives First representatives are available to provide guidance and various resource tools to assist with any start-up decisions.

Co-operatives First can also provide a relationship manager to focus solely on a group or business that explores the co-op model. After all, starting up a co-op can be an arduous challenge with some confusing processes, which can obviously be made easier with the assistance of those in the know.

Co-operatives First employees are also available to assist with feasibility studies and business plans.

“We are really hoping to help leverage economic developers and business consultants,” Matthews said.

Co-operatives First has also offered a number of courses and workshops available to all in the past.

This includes a Good Governance Matters course.

Workshops offered include the Exploring Opportunity one, which allows community leaders and builders a chance to establish goals and set some clarity on prospective projects. Half-day and full-day workshops on Board Governance area also available

In the fall Co-operatives First will also be offering a free Co-ops 101 course in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan’s Centre for the Study of Co-operatives.

“It’s an online course you can work on at your own pace,” Matthews said. “The goal is to help raise awareness of co-ops and how they work.”

In the past people from around the world have enrolled in Co-operatives First courses.

The upcoming course will especially appeal to those involved in a co-op, including volunteers, staff and board members. That’s because it’s important to understand how the co-op model varies from other business models.

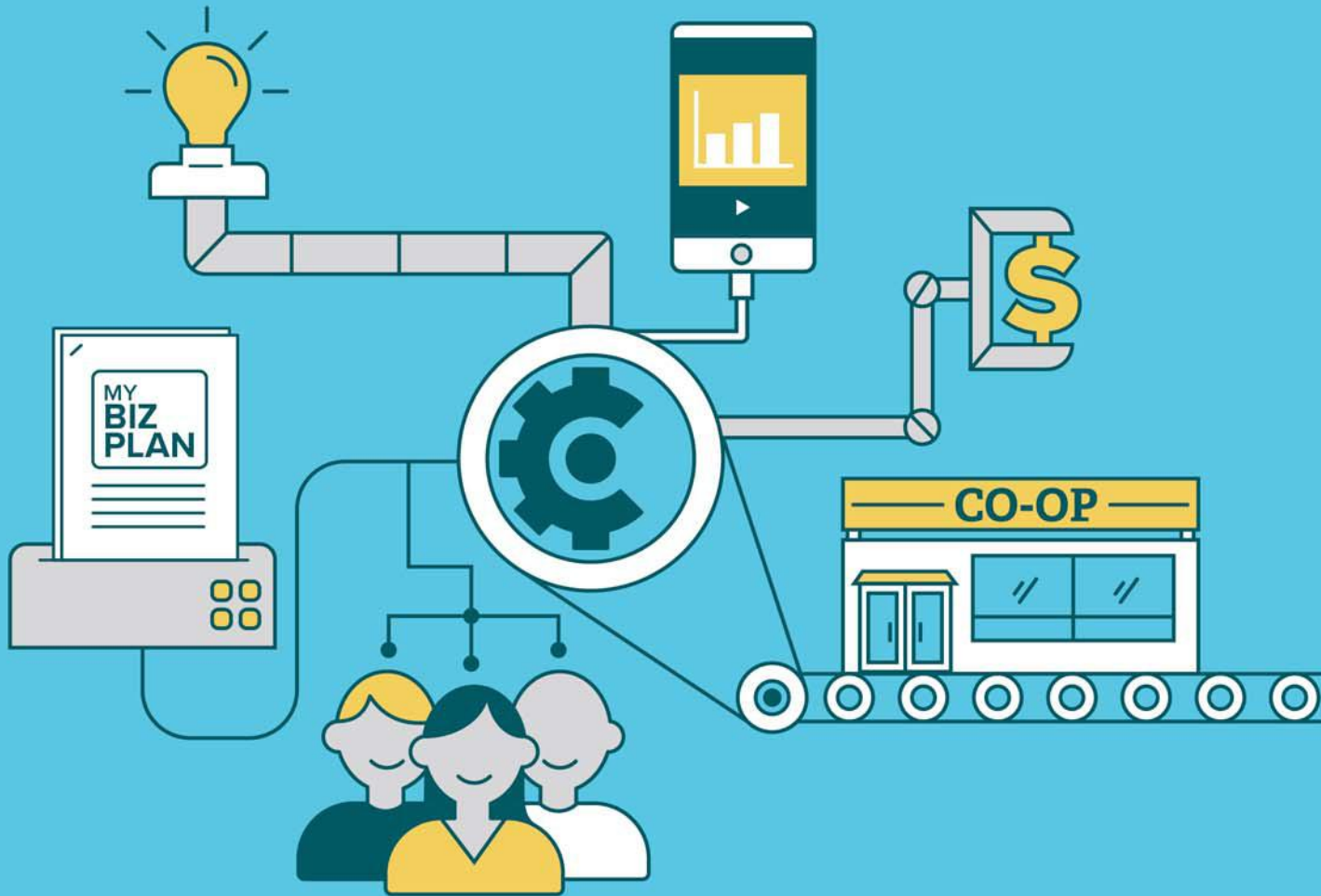
Co-ops 101 will provide information on topics such as how decisions are made within a co-op and its connections to shareholders (members).



Co-operatives First representatives are available to meet with those considering the co-op model such as this community engagement event in Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan.



# CREATING A CO-OP IS NOW EASIER



Thinking about starting a co-op? There's a lot to consider. Bylaws, business plans and incorporation. Not to mention governance and cashflow. Co-op Creator is the most straightforward resource to get your idea up and running. And it's free. From our unique business plan generator to an online governance course, everything is covered.

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Links to Learning

# LINKS TO LEARNING 2019

**SUPPORTING FIRST NATIONS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LANDS MANAGEMENT**





Elder Syexwaliya (Ann Whonnoc) - Squamish Knowledge Keeper/Elder Advisor welcomes delegates to the 7th annual Links to Learning. Elder Syexwaliya wished all delegates and speakers a productive event. The event was held at the Westin Bayshore on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish people - including the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and Musqueam Peoples.



Bill Guerin, Associate Regional Director General of Indigenous Services Canada welcomes delegates to the 7th annual BC Links to Learning.



Leona Irons with the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association welcome delegates and speakers.



Ray Wanuch, Cando Executive Director wishes all delegates a successful event.

**Links to Learning 2019 is a partnership between Cando, the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association and Indigenous Services Canada**



Indigenous Services  
Canada

Services aux  
Autochtones Canada



# Welcome



(Above) Bill Guerin, Associate Regional Director General of Indigenous Services Canada welcomes delegates to the 7th annual BC Links to Learning at the Westin Bayshore.

(Below) The registration Desk was busy Tuesday morning with delegates and speakers picking up their packages. Cando staff and Indigenous Services Canada volunteers made sure everyone was quickly assisted and off to their workshops.



# Welcome

Stan Wesley will not let delegates keep still. There were games, dances and prize draws. These all worked to keep everyone's energy high for better learning and knowledge transfer. Stan shared his optimism and boundless energy with more than 230 delegates and speakers that attended the 2019 BC Links to Learning.



# Cultural & Networking Event



# Cultural & Networking Event

Alex Wells - from the Lil'wat Nation, Mount Currie, B.C. - was the featured dancer/performer at BC Links to Learning's Cultural and Networking event held on Tuesday evening. Alex is a talented musician as well as dancer. He showcased his incredible hoopdancing skills that has made him a repeat World Champion Hoopdancer. After Alex's performance, delegates were given the opportunity to network while having some tasty appetizers and snacks.



# Workshops







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# EDO praises annual B.C. Links to Learning conference



Pauline Goertzen works out of the Lake Babine Nation's administration office.

Photos: LBN Communications

## By Sam Laskaris Cando Contributor

Since becoming the economic development officer for the Lake Babine Nation in British Columbia, there is one event in particular that Pauline Goertzen looks forward to each fall.

That would be the annual B.C. Links to Learning, a training technical forum which is held in Vancouver. The event provides various learning opportunities not only for economic development officers from Indigenous

communities but also for lands management officers from across British Columbia.

The conference is a partnership between Indigenous Services Canada, the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association and Cando, the national organization that promotes economic and business development in Indigenous communities across the country.

The two-day 2019 B.C. Links to Learning event was held in early December at the Westin Bayshore.



Lake Babine Nation's economic development officer Pauline Goertzen considers the B.C. Links to Learning event the best conference she attends each year.

## Pauline Goertzen Lake Babine Nation

For Goertzen, who has been Lake Babine Nation's EDO for the past five and a half years, this marked the fifth consecutive year she has participated at the conference.

"I think it's the best conference I go to," Goertzen said, adding she also attends 2-3 other conferences annually. "There's a lot of connecting with other people."

Besides other EDOs, Goertzen enjoys the B.C. Links to Learning event as consultants and government representatives are also on hand.

"Everybody is in one place," Goertzen said. "You get to meet with them all at once."

Goertzen also enjoys the event agenda.

"It's more of a practitioners' conference instead of a business conference," she said. "And nobody is trying to sell you anything. It's all about being practical and sharing what information we have."

Experts in various economic and land development activities lead workshops. There are also ample opportunities for dialogue and networking.

"I've taken quite a bit from this conference," Goertzen said, adding information on alternate energy sources, corporate restructuring and land use planning are topics that have been covered at previous conferences that she has taken back to her community. "We use it to learn what has worked for others and what didn't work."

Most delegates who attend the B.C. Links to Learning have their expenses – including registration fee, travel and accommodations – covered.

Goertzen added the B.C. Links to Learning conference is held at a rather fitting moment.

"It's good timing because your (community) budgets are coming up," she said. "And it helps you to strategize your own economic development plans."

Goertzen also said she thinks it is imperative to attend the conference in order to find out the various forms of government funding available for various projects. These funding amounts can vary from year to year and from government to government.

"Sometimes there's slippage (in the funding available) and other times there's other opportunities that come up," she said.

**NIEEF** | National Indigenous Economic  
Education Fund

## YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

### National Indigenous Economic Education Fund (NIEEF) Scholarships

NIEEF is Cando's charitable organization, which grants annual scholarships to Indigenous students studying in a field related to economic development.

To be eligible, students must be attending or currently enrolled in a program at a post-secondary institution, and must be a Cando student member.

Preference will be given to students enrolled in one of Cando's Accredited Institutions.

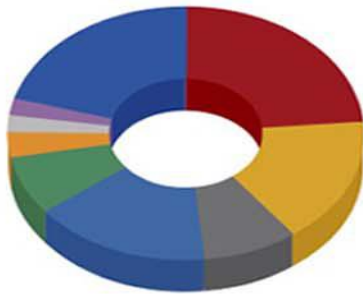
This year, NIEEF will be granting four scholarships each worth \$2,000.

The deadline to apply for a  
NIEEF Scholarship is July 31, 2020.  
Info.: [www.edo.ca/youth/nieef-scholarships](http://www.edo.ca/youth/nieef-scholarships)

Excellence in Indigenous Economic Development | [www.edo.ca](http://www.edo.ca)

An annual technical training forum launched in 2013 that provides a range of skills development and learning opportunities for Indigenous Lands Management Officers & Economic Development Officers from throughout British Columbia.

The BC Links to Learning event draws a broad range of attendees from Indigenous communities throughout British Columbia.

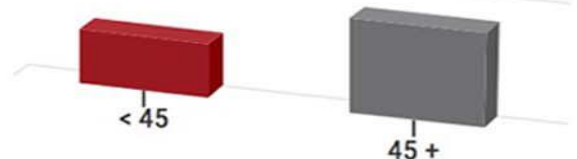


- Lands Manager
- Band Executive
- Consultant
- EDO
- Lands Employee
- Housing Personnel
- Government Personnel
- Other
- Both EDO & Lands Manager

66% of the attendees identify as female.



64% of the attendees are 45 years or older.



Measuring the impact of BC Links to Learning event:

**\$3.17**  
million in changes  
in annual revenues

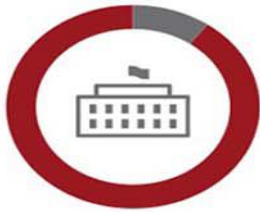
**50**  
jobs created  
in the communities

**\$10.05**  
million contributed to  
GDP of British Columbia

# ROI = 1:6.7

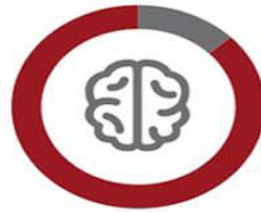
\$10.05 million added to GDP yields a return on investment (ROI) of 6.7, or \$6.70 for every \$1 invested in BC Links to Learning from 2013 through 2018

Analysis based on survey responses from 176 conference attendees for a response rate of 34%.



**90%**

of attendees improved their knowledge of government programs & services



**87%**

of attendees improved their knowledge of the Indigenous context in Canada



**87%**

of attendees improved their knowledge of economic development practices



**78%**

of attendees improved their ability to engage with their community



**74%**

of attendees improved their ability to influence the advancement of their community's development



**65%**

of attendees improved their ability to assist their community with the generation of revenues

**ROI = 1:6.7**

for every \$1 invested in the event \$6.7 in revenues was generated for the communities

**86%**

of attendees are satisfied with the BC Links to Learning Forum

Impact Assessment by:



**The  
Evidence  
Network**

Analysis based on survey responses from 176 conference attendees for a response rate of 34%.  
More information: [www.edo.ca/news](http://www.edo.ca/news)

# Vendors



# Closing



Leona Irons with the National Aboriginal Land Managers Association thanks delegates for attending BC Links to Learning.



Tanya Duncan Manager, Economic Development with Indigenous Services Canada thanks delegates for taking time to attend BC Links to Learning and wishes everyone a safe journey home.



Ray Wanuch, Cando Executive Director thanks delegates and presents information on the impact of BC Links to Learning over the years: For every dollar invested into the event the result was \$15 in community revenues.

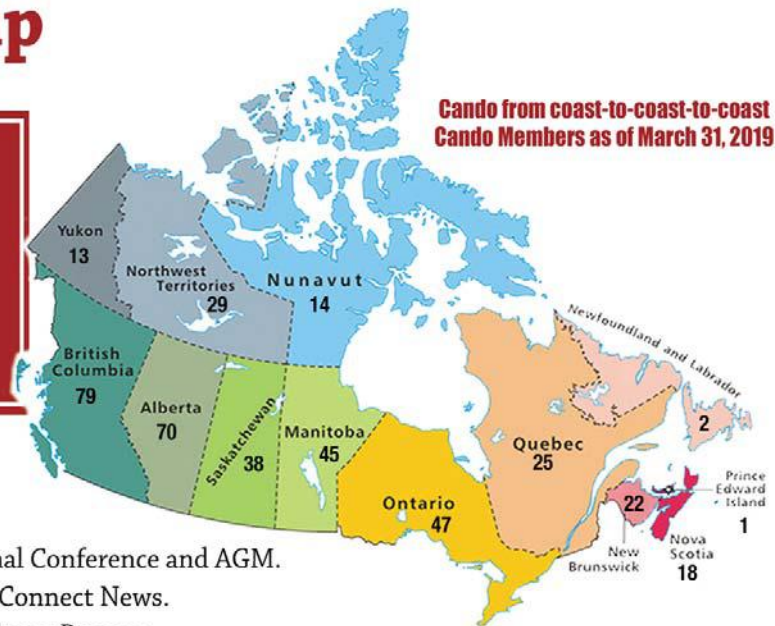


Elder Syexwaliya thanks delegates and speakers for their efforts in making Links to Learning such a productive gathering. She wished everyone a safe journey home before closing the event.

# RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

## Cando Membership

Full Individual Membership - \$105  
Associate Membership - \$89.25  
Student Membership - \$26.25  
Organization Membership - \$315



### Cando Membership Benefits:

- Discount registration at the Cando Annual National Conference and AGM.
- Subscription to Cando Connect Magazine and (e) Connect News.
- Access to the Certified Aboriginal Economic Developer Process.
- Discount subscription to Cando's Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development, the only journal of its kind in Canada.
- Opportunity to advertise events and services through Cando's nation-wide network.
- Voting privileges at Cando's national and regional meetings (Full Members only).
- Access to Cando's bookstore and resources.

To learn more about becoming a member OR to join visit:  
[www.edo.ca/about-cando/membership](http://www.edo.ca/about-cando/membership)

  
cando  
Inspiring Success



# Tradeshow



Indigenous Services Canada



National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association



Rogers Communications



ICLD

# Tradeshow

Photos: Paul Macedo



Office of Small and Medium Enterprise



Nicola Valley Institute of Technology



Small Business BC



Co-operatives First



The Firelight Group



First Nations Public Service Secretariat



Trout Creek Homes



Gwaii Engineering

## 2019 Platinum Sponsors



## 2019 Gold Sponsors



## 2019 Silver Sponsors



## 2019 Bronze Sponsors



**Many thanks to our partners and sponsors for making the seventh annual BC Links to Learning possible!  
Thank you for sharing Cando's vision to increase capacity in Indigenous community economic development.**

# RFP Opportunity: Yellowknives Dene First Nation & City of Yellowknife Joint Economic Development Strategy



An important aspect of the Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) is sharing inspiring stories of collaboration and lessons learned of developing partnerships between First Nations and municipalities. Utilizing various communication channels, the CEDI team is pleased to feature current partnerships and their respective journeys with Cando and FCM (CEDI delivery partner) members, and more broadly with interested public so that the stories and lessons can be learned from and adapted to inform other Indigenous and non-Indigenous partnerships.

In this issue of Cando Connect, the CEDI team is pleased to highlight the collaboration between Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) and the City of Yellowknife (CoY) and, the important work that their CEDI Working Group has accomplished in the co-development of a Terms of Reference (TOR) and Request for Proposal (RFP) for the development of a Joint Economic Development Strategy. In addition, this article also highlights an opportunity for those with experience in joint community economic development and joint economic development strategic planning to consider submitting a proposal for this exciting opportunity.

In April 2019, YKDFN and CoY were selected from forty-four joint applications submitted from across Canada to

participate in an accelerated 2-year model of the CEDI program, joining the CEDI family as the ninth partnership in the current Phase II of the program. Over the course of two years (until in March 2021), YKDFN and CoY with the guidance of the CEDI team, will apply the Stronger Together Approach (<http://www.edo.ca/cedi/stronger-together-approach>) to achieve the following program goals: to build the capacity of elected officials and staff to identify, prioritize, plan for and implement joint community economic development initiatives, and to develop a resilient, sustainable relationship.

In their joint application to the CEDI program, both communities expressed a commitment to enhance economic prosperity in the region through the development of a Joint Economic Development Strategy.

#### **Excerpt from Joint Application:**

Through jointly developing a 5-year strategy, we anticipate there will be many potential benefits such as a stronger, united voice for engaging with industry and other levels of government; an increased ability to attract development funding from other levels of government; economies of scale savings through the sharing of capacity, knowledge and/or service delivery, to name a few. Furthermore, through the

[www.edo.ca/cedi](http://www.edo.ca/cedi)

identification of mutual needs along with current and future opportunities, we anticipate that there will be an increase in opportunities for local business development and employment through job creation. For these reasons, the City of Yellowknife and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation recognize and understand that in today's competitive economy, we will be stronger together.

Most recently, on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, elected officials and staff from YKDFN and CoY gathered for their second CEDI Workshop which focused on continued relationship building and jointly finalizing the TOR and RFP for the development of their Joint Economic Development Strategy. The facilitated process encouraged the participants to collaborate and contribute feedback in the co-creation of a TOR and RFP that represents both communities and their shared vision for the future.

The CEDI team is proud to support this partnership as they develop and implement the Joint Economic Development Strategy, as imagined in their joint application, through their two year participation in the CEDI program. Next steps for the YKDFN and CoY partnership are to review the RFP submissions and jointly select the strongest candidate to develop their Joint Economic Development Strategy in collaboration with the Working Group.

The RFP will be released through the CoY's Bid Opportunities website by the end of January and will be posted throughout the month of February 2020. Please follow the link: <https://yellowknife.bidsandtenders.ca> for more information about this exciting opportunity, and please feel free to share this information with your friends and colleagues!

To learn more information on co-developing Terms of Reference, please reference the CEDI article in the September – October 2019 issue of Cando Connect.



# CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

# Welcome delegates and speakers



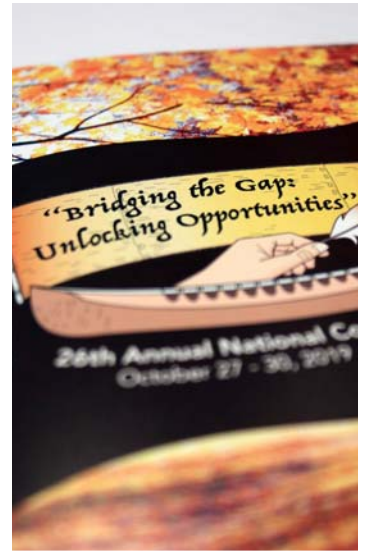
(Facing Page) The 26th Annual Cando Conference formally began on Monday, Oct. 28 with an opening prayer and blessing from Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg Elder Joseé Whiteduck.

This was followed by a traditional welcome by the Eagle River Singers also from Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg.

(This page, top) The Cando Conference Master of Ceremonies was the one-and-only, Stan Wesley.

(This page, middle) Mohan Denetto, Director General, Economic & Business Opportunities Directorate, Indigenous Services Canada greets delegates.

(This page, bottom) Dylan Whiteduck welcomes delegates and speakers to the ancestral unceded lands of the Algonquin Anishnabeg on behalf of conference co-host Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg First Nation.



# Welcome delegates and speakers



Opening prayer and blessing from Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg Elder Joseé Whiteduck.



Welcome to delegates from Chief Ghislain Picard, AFN Regional Chief - Quebec/Labrador.



Mohan Denetto, Director General, Economic & Business Opportunities Directorate, Indigenous Services Canada greets delegates.







Dylan Whiteduck welcomes delegates to the ancestral unceded lands of the Algonquin Anishnabeg on behalf of conference co-host Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg First Nation.

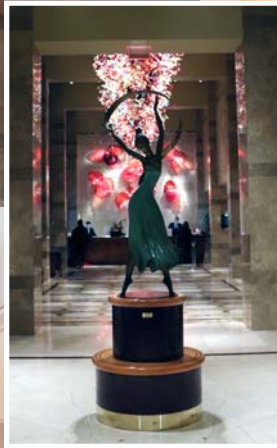
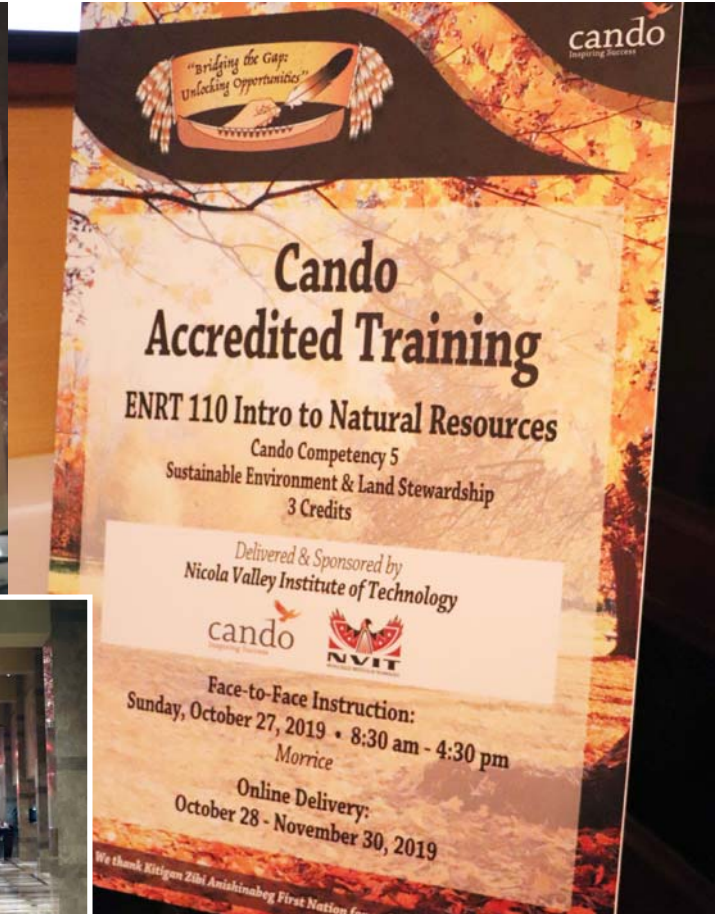


Keith Matthew, Cando President and Director for Southern BC welcomes delegates and speakers to the 26th Annual Cando Conference.



(Left to right) Ray Wanuch, Executive Director, Cando; Keith Matthew, President and Director for Southern BC, Cando; Pierre Lanthier, Acting Mayor, City of Gatineau; and Mohan Denetto, Director General, Economic & Business Opportunities Directorate, Indigenous Services Canada.

# NVIT Accredited Training



The 2019 Cando Conference was held at the Hilton Lac-Leamy Hotel and Conference Centre in Gatineau, Quebec on the ancestral unceded lands of the Algonquin Anishnabeg. The Conference began on Sunday, Oct. 27 with pre-conference Accredited Training provided through NIVIT (ENRT 110 Intro to Natural Resources).

# NRCan Information Session



A Professional Development Workshop on Indigenous Communities and Natural Resources was delivered by Natural Resources Canada. Communities with successful Natural Resource operations were on hand to speak about their experiences and provide guidance to communities considering economic development through resource development.

# Cando Annual General Meeting



The Cando Annual General Meeting was held on Monday, Oct. 28 with 11 of the 13 Directors on the Cando Board present - missing were the Director for Nunavut and National Student Director. Both these positions are vacant with elections scheduled for November. Many Cando members were on hand to take part in the proceedings. Several members proposed suggestions for future initiatives to help Cando continue to serve its diverse membership and assist them to be more effective in their community economic development.

# Keynote Speakers



Glenn Mason, Assistant Deputy Minister, Lands & Minerals Sector, Natural Resources Canada was the Luncheon Keynote for Monday and presented the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan.



Dawn Madahbee Leach, Waubetek Business Development Corporation presented on Tuesday afternoon on Unlocking Opportunities for Indigenous Economies.



Anil Arora, Chief Statistician of Canada with Statistics Canada was the Luncheon Keynote for Tuesday and presented the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Statistics: The Way Forward.



Tourism Panel: (left to right) John Ritchie, Keith Henry, Dave Leveau, Ronald Desjarlais.



Very Presidential!  
(left to right)  
Keith Matthew, Cando President and Director for Southern BC;  
Alfred Loon, Past President, Cando;  
Paul Donald, Past President, Cando;  
Ray Wanuch, Executive Director, Cando.



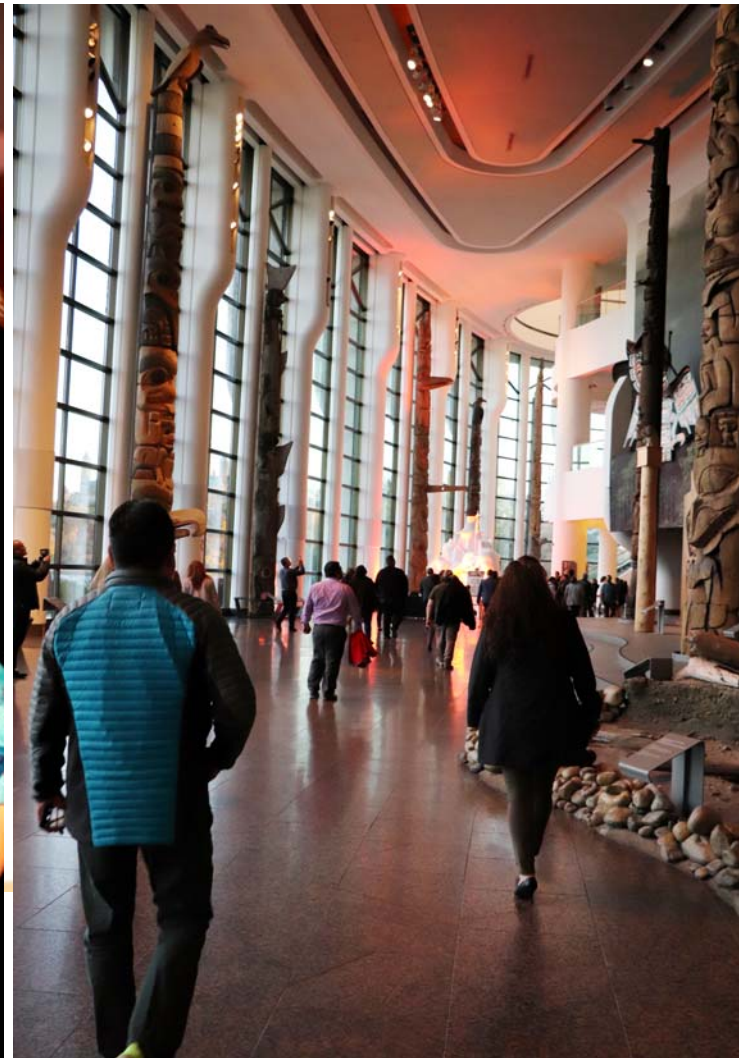
# Cultural Event and Icebreaker

Photo: Paul Macedo



The Cando Conference Icebreaker Reception and Community Cultural Event was held on Monday evening at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau. Conference delegates were treated to an experience inside the building designed by architect Douglas Cardinal that showcased historical and contemporary works of art by Indigenous artists. Also on display was drumming and dancing by members of the host community: Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg.

Photos: Paul Macedo



# Workshops





# Workshops



# 2019 Women in Business Panel

to Cando's 26th Annual National Conference & AGM • October 27-30

"Bridging the Gap:  
Unlocking Opportunities"

We th

Ashinaber

co-hosting thi



The 2019 Women in Business Panel: (left to right) Marie St-Gelais, Ashini Consultants; Jolene Johnson, Wabanaki Maple; Mallory Graham, Tribal Trade Co.; Victoria LaBillois, Wejipeg Excavation Inc.

# 2019 Women in Business Panel



(Above) Jennifer Pereira Ashawasegai, First Nations Community Liaison Officer with AECOM, moderates the 2019 Women in Business Panel. The panelists were (left to right) Marie St-Gelais, Ashini Consultants; Jolene Johnson, Wabanaki Maple; Mallory Graham, Tribal Trade Co.; Victoria LaBillois, Wejipeg Excavation Inc.



# 2019 National Youth Panel



The 2019 National Youth Panel are (left to right) Ryan Oliverius, BC; Chanelle Smoke, ON; Destinee Peter, SK; Alexandra Jarrett, SK; Aubrey-Anne Laliberte Pewapisconias, SK; and Nipawi Kakinoosit, AB.



(Above) Marcel Peltier with AECOM introduces the six youth panelists for the 2019 National Youth Panel.



(Above) A bit of relief on the faces of the Youth Panelists as they are thanked for sharing their stories and being inspirational role models.

# 2019 National Youth Panel



Many local youth, some from Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg, were in attendance to listen to the Youth Panel and be inspired by their journeys and experiences of failure and success.



Marcel Peltier (Left) with AECOM was the moderator of the 2019 National Youth Panel. Panelists are (left to right) Chanelle Smoke, ON; Destinee Peter, SK; Aubrey-Anne Laliberte Pewapiscionias, SK; Alexandra Jarrett, SK; Ryan Oliverius, BC; and Nipawi Kakinoosit, AB.

# 2019 TAED & PAED Recognition Ceremony



Photo: Paul Macedo

Most of the 2019 graduates of the Cando Certified Aboriginal Economic Developer Program were present at the Cando Conference for the Recognition Ceremony held on Wednesday, October 30, 2019.



(Left) Anita Boyle, Certification Coordinator (East) announced the names of all the 2019 TAED and PAED graduates at the Recognition Ceremony.

Cando Certified Aboriginal Economic Developer Process Recognition Ceremony On Wednesday, October 30, 2019, Cando will hold a recognition ceremony for 23 Technician Aboriginal Economic Developer (TAED) and 2 Professional Aboriginal Economic Developer (PAED) graduates.

Congratulations to this year's group of Economic Developers who worked hard to earn their designation!



**Technician in Aboriginal Economic Developer:**

- Megan Arcand, AB
- Jonathan Cada-Doiron, ON
- Michelle Francis-Denny, NS
- Shannon Goulet, MB
- Sylvia Harris, MB
- Amber Jones, ON
- Marissa Lawrence, BC
- Amy Lizotte, NT
- Katherine Milley, NB
- Keshia Moffat, NB
- Carmelle Nepoose, AB
- Eve O'Leary, SK
- Étienne Pilon-Choquette, QC
- Shannon Polches, NB
- Paul Pospisil, SK
- Cynthia Rayner, BC
- Justin Roy, QC
- Jessica Sanderson-Barry, AB
- Jessica Saunders, AB
- James Stevens, NS
- Matthew Tapper, NS
- Dianne Thomas, ON
- Dylan Whiteduck, QC



**Professional Aboriginal Economic Developer Level Renewals:**

- Stanley Barnaby, NB
- Tanya Tourangeau, AB



Photo: Paul Macedo

(Above) Dr. Verna Billy-Minnaberriest (left), and Dr. John Chenowyth from Cando's Education Committee presented all the 2019 graduates with their TAED and OPAED certificates.



2019

# Economic Developer of the Year Awards

(Above) All the award plaques for Cando's 2019 Economic Developer of the Year are ready for presentation. Six Award finalists were invited to attend the Cando Conference and present their case to be declared the winner. Conference delegates confirmed to be Cando members in-good-standing were provided ballots to vote for their choice in the three categories: Individual Economic Developer; Community Economic Developer; and Indigenous Private Sector Business.

(Below) Katie Young-Headlesey was recognized as Cando's Individual Economic Developer of the Year for her outstanding work with Ontario's Curve Lake First Nation. Congratulations Katie!







Frank Buckshot who has owned Buck's Auto Parts since 2015 had daughter Amanda and son Andrew deliver the presentation.



Andrew Buckshot (left) with his father Frank Buckshot with their Cando Award for Indigenous Private Sector Business of the Year.



Paul Donald (left) presents on behalf of Simpcw Resource Group for consideration as Community Economic Developer of the Year.



Paul Donald (left) holding the Cando Award for Community Economic Developer of the Year on behalf of Simpcw Resource Group. Keith Matthew (right) is Cando President and a member of Simpcw First Nation.



(Above) Peter Collins (left), Chief of Fort William First Nation, and Robert Starr (right), business project manager, were on hand to make their presentation for consideration for Supercom as Indigenous Private Sector Business of the Year.

(Left) Byron Gourley presents his outstanding work for New Brunswick's Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq Nation for Individual Economic Developer of the Year.

(Far Left) Sydney Paul presents on behalf of Kingsclear First Nation for Community Economic Developer of the Year.

# Cando Board of Directors

**Keith Matthew**  
**President**

**Director - Southern B.C.**

**Trevor Acoose**  
**Vice President**

**Director - Saskatchewan**

**Stanley Barnaby**  
**Secretary Treasurer**

**Director - New Brunswick & PEI**

**Elaine Chambers**  
**Director - Yukon**

**Ed Collins**  
**Director - Ontario**

**Tim Daniels**  
**Director - Manitoba**

**Student Director**  
**Aubrey-Anne Laliberte**  
**Pewapiconias**

**Amy Lizotte**  
**Director - Northwest Territories**

**Tracy Menge**  
**Director - Nova Scotia,**  
**Newfoundland & Labrador**

**Bertram Mercer**  
**Director - Northern BC**

**Shawna Morning Bull**  
**Director - Alberta**

**Mickel Robertson**  
**Director - Québec**

**Bill Williams**  
**Director - Nunavut**

**More information on Cando's board: [www.edo.ca/about-cando/board](http://www.edo.ca/about-cando/board)**

**NIEEF** | National Indigenous Economic  
Education Fund

## YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

### National Indigenous Economic Education Fund (NIEEF) Scholarships

NIEEF is Cando's charitable organization which grants annual scholarships to Indigenous students studying in a field related to economic development. To be eligible, students must be attending or currently enrolled in a program at a post-secondary institution, and must be a Cando student member.

Preference will be given to students enrolled in one of Cando's Accredited Institutions.

In 2020 NIEEF will be awarding four scholarships each worth \$2,000.

This includes the new 'Plains Midstream Canada - NIEEF Scholarship' to be awarded to one successful applicant based in Alberta.



**Kiera Kowalski**

**2019  
NIEEF  
SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENTS**



**Patrick Twinn**

**2019  
NIEEF  
SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENTS**

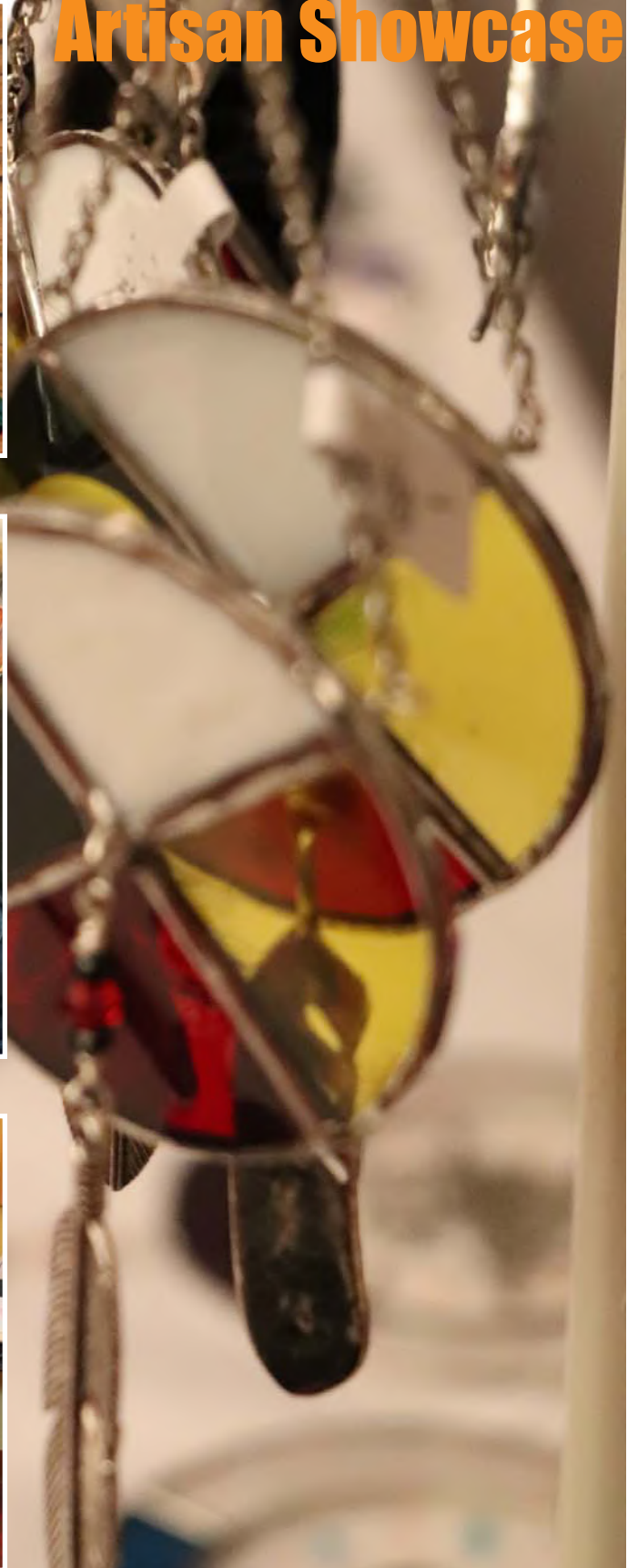


**Taylor Wilson**

The deadline to apply for a NIEEF Scholarship is July 31, 2020.

More information: [www.edo.ca/youth/nieef-scholarships](http://www.edo.ca/youth/nieef-scholarships)

# Artisan Showcase





(Above) Darrell Balkwill, the chief executive officer of the Whitecap Development Corporation, is thrilled his First Nation was able to secure next year's (2020) Cando Conference.

(Above) Tim Daniels, the CEO of the Treaty One Development Corp., said both the Long Plain First Nation and the Peguis First Nation, are planning to construct hotels, which would hopefully be suitable to host the 2022 Cando Conference.



# Future hosts announced for Cando Conference

**2020 – Dakota Dunes/Saskatoon, SK**

**2021 – Membertou/Sydney, NS**

**2022 – Treaty 1/Winnipeg, MB**

**By Sam Laskaris  
Cando Contributor**

Even before the 2019 Cando Conference had concluded in Gatineau, Que., people could already start making plans to attend future events for the next three years.

That's because hosts for the annual event organized by Cando, the organization that promotes economic development in Indigenous communities across Canada, were announced for the 2020, '21 and '22 conferences.

For starters, the Whitecap Dakota First Nation, located in Saskatchewan, will host the 2020 Cando Conference.

The Membertou First Nation, which is in Nova Scotia, will then host the 2021 event. And then the Treaty One Development Corporation, whose office is based in Winnipeg, will lay out the welcome mats for the 2022 conference.

Darrell Balkwill, the chief executive officer of the Whitecap Development Corporation, is thrilled his First Nation was able to secure next year's event.

"The reason we were interested in hosting is because it has been awhile since the conference was in our province," he said. "We felt it was time to bring that event back to Saskatchewan."

Ideally, Balkwill is hoping the 2020 conference will be staged at a resort development his First Nation is currently building adjacent to its casino and golf course.

That hotel is expected to be finished by next summer, thus in ample time to prepare for October's conference.

Balkwill estimates he's been to 20 of the 26 Cando conference that have been held thus far.

"It's a great conference," he said. "And it's a must event for communities to participate in, especially for economic development officers."

Kelsea MacNeil, Membertou's director of communications and stakeholder relations, also realizes the significance of hosting the Cando Conference. Membertou previously hosted the event in 2012 and officials from the First Nation have been

keen to have it return to its community.

"We really wanted to secure the conference again," MacNeil said. "Cando is consistently one of the conferences we look to host in Membertou."

MacNeil said delegates can expect plenty of friendly east coast hospitality when they attend the 2021 conference.

"In Membertou our motto is 'Welcoming The World,'" she said.

The conference will be held at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre, a multi-use facility that is attached to a Hampton Inn, where many of the delegates would in all likelihood stay.

"It's a pretty good setup," MacNeil said.

Meanwhile, it is not known yet where exactly the 2022 Cando Conference will be held. The Treaty One Development Corporation, which was registered as a corporation in 2018, includes seven First Nations.

They are Long Plain First Nation, Peguis First Nation, Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation, Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation, Sagkeeng First Nation, Sandy Bay First Nation and Swan Lake First Nation.

Tim Daniels, the CEO of the Treaty One Development Corporation, said both the Long Plain First Nation and the Peguis First Nation, are planning to construct hotels, which would hopefully be suitable to host the 2022 Cando Conference.

"I'm hopeful one of those First Nations will build a hotel by then," Daniels said. "If not, there are plenty of other options available in Treaty One."

Daniels said logistically it makes sense to have a future conference in or near Manitoba's capital.

"Winnipeg is centrally located," he said. "It's best for delegates from across the country to travel here."

And though he'll have to wait a few years for his group to host the conference, Daniels is still rather excited.

"I'm very happy," he said. "It's good news for us and for Treaty One to host a national conference."

# Trade Show

Thank you to all of the stakeholders for Cando's 26th Annual Conference!



# Trade Show

Thank you to all of the stakeholders for Cando's 26th Annual Conference!



# Platinum Level Sponsors



Indigenous Services  
Canada

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Autochtones Canada



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Approvisionnement Canada



Natural Resources  
Canada

Ressources naturelles  
Canada



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ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND



LE CONSEIL  
DE GESTION  
FINANCIÈRE des  
Premières Nations



## DETOUR GOLD

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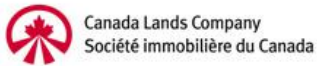
Thank you to all of the stakeholders for Cando's 26th Annual Conference!



# Silver Level Sponsors



# Bronze Level Sponsors



Thank you to all of the stakeholders for Cando's 26th Annual Conference!

## Nominate your Role Model for the National Youth Panel!

Each year Cando selects six Indigenous youth participants to form the National Youth Panel, a signature event at the annual national conference that will be held this year in Saskatoon, SK in October 2020. The selections for the National Youth Panel are based on their strengths, initiatives, accomplishments, entrepreneurial spirit, and participation within their communities. Do you know of a role model deserving of special recognition? Nominate them today!

### Award recipients will enjoy:

- Recognition for their achievements
- Networking with Indigenous leaders and peers
- Free trip to Saskatoon, SK - plus complimentary conference registration and accommodations

### Eligibility:

- Must not have been part of the youth panel previously
- Must be between 18-30 years of age
- Must be of Indigenous descent (First Nation, Métis, Inuit)

2019 National Youth Panel - Gatineau, QC



*Be sure to visit our website to learn more and nominate today!*

**Deadline for nominations is July 31, 2020**

# Cando Board of Directors

**Keith Matthew**  
**President**  
Director - Southern B.C.

**Trevor Acoose**  
**Vice President**  
Director - Saskatchewan

**Stanley Barnaby**  
**Secretary Treasurer**  
Director - New Brunswick & PEI

**Elaine Chambers**  
Director - Yukon

**Ed Collins**  
Director - Ontario

**Tim Daniels**  
Director - Manitoba

**Student Director**  
**Aubrey-Anne Laliberte**  
Pewapiscoonias

**Amy Lizotte**  
Director - Northwest Territories

**Tracy Menge**  
Director - Nova Scotia,  
Newfoundland & Labrador

**Bertram Mercer**  
Director - Northern BC

**Shawna Morning Bull**  
Director - Alberta

**Mickel Robertson**  
Director - Québec

**Bill Williams**  
Director - Nunavut

More information on Cando's board: [www.edo.ca/about-cando/board](http://www.edo.ca/about-cando/board)

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD



**Katie Young-Haddlesey, ON**  
**Curve Lake First Nation**  
**Individual Economic Developer of the Year**



**Simpw First Nation, BC**  
**Paul Donald of Simpwcw Resources Group**  
**Community Economic Developer of the Year**



**Buck's Auto Parts, QC**  
**Frank Buckshot**  
**Indigenous Private Sector Business**

2019 Economic Developer of the Year Award Winners - Gatineau, QC



### Recognize! Celebrate! Honour!

Sharing our stories and celebrating our successes will ensure that economic development initiatives continue to grow. In 1995, the Cando Economic Developer of the Year was created to recognize and promote recent or long-standing Indigenous economic development initiatives throughout Canada.

**Each year, Cando awards three categories:**

- Individual EDO
- Community
- Indigenous Private Sector Business

**The nomination deadline is June 30th, 2020**

*Please visit the Cando website to nominate, and for more information.*

# Curve Lake First Nation's EDO captures national award

## Katie Young-Haddlesey Individual EDO Award Winner

By Sam Laskaris  
Cando Contributor



Katie Young-Haddlesey was recognized as Cando Individual Economic Developer of the Year for her outstanding work with Ontario's Curve Lake First Nation.

If you spend just a few moments chatting with Katie Young-Haddlesey chances are it won't be long before she starts praising co-workers or the importance of working well with other partners.

That's even when it is Young-Haddlesey herself who is being singled out for recognition.

Such was the case on Oct. 30 when Young-Haddlesey was announced as the winner of the Economic Development Officer of the Year Award at the Cando Conference, which was staged in Gatineau, Que.

Cando is an organization that promotes economic development in Indigenous communities across Canada.

For the past three years Young-Haddlesey has been working as the EDO of the Curve Lake First Nation in Ontario.

As expected, Young-Haddlesey was pleased to win the award. But she also quickly deflected praise towards her.

"It's a true sense of accomplishment," she said.

"Somebody told me that during my presentation I said 'We, we, we' too often. But I truly feel it is a team effort."

Young-Haddlesey came to the conference already knowing she was one of two finalists in her category vying for a national award.

Byron Gourley, who works for the Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq Nation in New Brunswick, was the other finalist in the EDO of the Year category.

There were also two finalists in both the Community of the Year and Indigenous Private Sector Business categories.

All finalists were allotted 20 minutes to make a presentation during the fourth and final day of the conference, staged at the Hilton Lac-Leamy.

Delegates who attended the 26<sup>th</sup> annual conference were then allowed to vote on those they felt made the best presentation.

Winners were announced at a conference-closing dinner ceremony.

Young-Haddlesey admitted being in the national spotlight did bring out some unexpected nerves.

"I'm not a person who gets nervous," she said. "But I was extremely nervous, especially in the morning (when I made my presentation)."

Young-Haddlesey did on a couple of occasions mention this was also the friendliest competition she had ever been in. That's because she quickly bonded with Gourley, an individual she had not met prior to the conference.

"It made it a fun experience," she said of her instant connection with Gourley.

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# Gourley pleased with his national Cando nomination

## Byron Gourley Individual EDO Award Finalist

By Sam Laskaris  
Cando Contributor



Byron Gourley (center) recognized as a Cando Individual Economic Developer of the Year Award Finalist for his outstanding work for New Brunswick's Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq Nation.

Byron Gourley was able to make a bit of history. Gourley, who is the Economic Development Officer for the Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq Nation in New Brunswick, was in the running for a national award.

He was one of two finalists for the Cando EDO of the Year award this year.

Cando is the organization that promotes economic development in Indigenous communities across Canada.

But it was the other finalist, Katie Young-Haddlesey, from the Curve Lake First Nation in Ontario, who ended up winning the Cando EDO of the Year prize.

"It was an honour to have been nominated for this," Gourley said. "It was the first time our First Nation had been nominated for this."

The winner was announced at a dinner ceremony, which was held on the final night of this year's conference.

The four-day event, which ran Oct. 27-30, was staged at the Hilton Lac-Leamy in Gatineau, Que.

The awards ceremony also featured Community of the Year and Indigenous Private Sector Business categories.

The conference included presentations from each of the six finalists in the three award categories.

Each finalist was given a maximum of 20 minutes to make a presentation. The conference attracted 330 delegates.

Those who listened to the presentations were given a ballot to vote on those they felt were most deserving to win in each category.

"I only lost by four votes," Gourley said.

He also said he was encouraged by the fact five chiefs from across the country came up to him afterwards and told him they had enjoyed his presentation and that they had voted for him.

Though he did not know Young-Haddlesey prior to this year's conference, the two spent a considerable amount of time together.

"I got to really like what she's doing for her First Nation," he said.

Gourley also had the opportunity meet a handful of Young-Haddlesey's relatives who showed up for the awards ceremony.

"I got to meet her family members that were there," he said. "They're all great people."

For Gourley, this marked the third time he had attended the Cando Conference. He took in as many workshops and panels as he could.

"I say knowledge is power," he said.

**Continued on page 74.**

# Simpcw First Nation's business arm brings national recognition

## Simpcw First Nation Community Economic Developer Award Winner

By Sam Laskaris  
Cando Contributor



Paul Donald (left) accepts the Cando Award for Community ED of the Year on behalf of Simpcw Resource Group. Keith Matthew (right) is Cando President and a member of Simpcw First Nation.

The Simpcw First Nation is proof that even a relatively small First Nation can achieve great things.

"We're just a little band that could," said Paul Donald, a director of the Simpcw Resources Group (SRG), the business arm of the First Nation based in British Columbia.

Primarily because of SRG efforts, the Simpcw First Nation was selected as the Community of the Year at this year's Cando Conference.

Cando is the organization that promotes economic development in Indigenous communities throughout Canada.

This marked the 26<sup>th</sup> year of the Cando Conference, which rotates to various cities across the country.

The most recent conference was staged Oct. 27-30 in Gatineau, Que.

Simpcw was one of two communities that had been previously named as a finalist for the Cando award.

The Kingsclear First Nation in New Brunswick was the other finalist.

Cando also handed out some hardware in the Economic Development Officer of the Year and Indigenous Private Sector Business categories at a ceremony, held on the final night of the conference.

All six finalists in the three award categories were allotted 20 minutes to make a presentation. Conference delegates then voted on those they felt deserved to win.

"This is a community award," Donald said, moments after it was announced Simpcw had won its category. "There are so many people that mark the success of our community."

And it's not just those leading the First Nation.

"This award is because of the chief and council, the (SRG) board of directors and also all of our crews that work," he said.

The SRG was established in 2011, originally operating out of a basement office on the First Nation. When it first began SRG had three employees, who focused on forestry management and logging opportunities.

Fast forward to the present and SRG has its own office space and about 100 employees working in a number of industries. Services SRG offers include those in environmental, archaeological, pipeline maintenance, site rehabilitation, road building and maintenance and security.

"We've outgrown that already and are looking to go elsewhere," Jason Dorey, SRG's senior operations manager, said of the business' current office space.

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# EDO pleased with her First Nation's moment in national spotlight

## Kingsclear First Nation Community Economic Developer Award Finalist

By Sam Laskaris  
Cando Contributor



Sydney Paul accepts the Cando Award for Finalist in Community ED of the Year on behalf of Kingsclear First Nation from Ed Collins (Cando Vice President) and Keith Matthew (Cando President).

Sydney Paul once again found herself in the national spotlight.

Back in 2011 Paul had been one of the individuals named to the National Youth Panel for the Cando Conference held in Richmond, B.C.

That same year Paul was also recognized at the conference for being one of the recipients of a National Indigenous Economic Education Foundation scholarship.

As for this year Paul was once again on stage at the Cando Conference. This year's event, which was held in Gatineau, Que., ran from Oct. 27-30.

Cando is the organization that promotes economic development in Indigenous communities across Canada.

Paul is now in her third year as working as the Economic Development Officer for the Kingsclear First Nation in New Brunswick.

Paul attended the Gatineau conference as she made a presentation on behalf of Kingsclear, which was one of the finalists for Cando's Community of the Year award.

The other finalist, however, Simpcw First Nation, based in B.C., ended up winning the Cando award.

"The fact we were even acknowledged on a national scale is a tremendous accomplishment," Paul said, shortly after it was announced Simpcw First Nation was the category winner. "It feels great. It was an honour to be able to present here in front of Canada."

Categories were also contested in the Economic Development Officer of the Year and Indigenous Private Sector Business categories.

Two finalists in each of the categories made presentations during the last day of this year's conference, held at the Hilton Lac-Leamy.

Delegates attending the conference were then given a ballot and allowed to vote for those they felt were most deserving of winning in each category.

Paul vowed her community will continue to take positive steps forward.

"We're only going to keep growing as a community," she said.

Paul praised her First Nation's leaders for getting Kingsclear into the national spotlight.

"Our leadership takes a lot of pride in the projects we move forward," she said.

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# Quebec auto parts store captures national Indigenous business award

## Buck's Auto Parts Indigenous Private Sector Business Award Winner

By Sam Laskaris  
Cando Contributor



Andrew Buckshot (left) with his father Frank Buckshot who has owned Buck's Auto Parts since 2015 with their Cando Award for Indigenous Private Sector Business of the Year.

Frank Buckshot is proof a lot of hard work can take one a long way.

Though he has just a Grade 9 education, Buckshot, a member of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation in Quebec, is a self-made successful businessman.

In fact, one of his businesses, Buck's Auto Parts, took top honors in the Indigenous Private Sector Business category at this year's Cando Conference.

Cando, the organization that promotes economic development in Indigenous communities across Canada, staged its 26<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Gatineau, Que.

The four-day event, which ran Oct. 27-30, included an awards ceremony to recognize winners in three categories.

Economic Development Officer of the Year and Community of the Year categories were also contested.

"It's something I didn't think I'd be able to achieve," Buckshot said of his national award.

Heading into the conference Buckshot knew his company was one of the two finalists in the running for the Indigenous Private Sector Business award.

The other finalist was Supercom Industries, a business partnership featuring six First Nations in northwestern Ontario.

All of the finalists were given a maximum of 20 minutes to make a presentation, touting their accomplishments. Conference delegates who listened to the presentations were then able to vote on those they thought were most deserving to win in each category.

Buckshot had his daughter Amanda and son Andrew make the presentation on behalf of Frank's Auto Parts.

"It meant the world to me," Buckshot, who is 62, said of the fact his children spoke on behalf of the business. "They're the ones that are going to take it over some day."

This marked the first time Buckshot had attended the Cando Conference. And he was rather appreciative to be included in the awards presentations.

"I'd like to thank everybody involved in this project," he said.

Buck's Auto Parts has been operating on the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation since 2015.

But Buckshot has been involved in the auto parts industry much longer.

He previously owned Mani Pieces Plus, from 1997 through 2015, in Maniwaki, about one kilometre from his current business.

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# Teamwork amongst six First Nations leads to national recognition

## Supercom Industries Indigenous Private Sector Business Award Finalist

By Sam Laskaris  
Cando Contributor



Robert Starr, Supercom's business project manager, and Peter Collins, Chief of Fort William First Nation, were on hand to accept the Cando Award as Finalist for Indigenous Private Sector Business of the Year.

Working well with others can indeed pay off.

Just ask officials from Supercom Industries.

Back in 2016 six First Nations, situated in northwestern Ontario along the shores of Lake Superior, hooked up to establish a business partnership dubbed Supercom Industries.

This partnership, often referred to as simply Supercom, includes the Fort William First Nation, Red Rock Indian Band, Pays Plat First Nation, Michipicoten First Nation, Pic Mobert First Nation and Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.

The work Supercom has been doing has not been going unnoticed. In fact, Supercom was one of the two finalists for this year's Indigenous Private Sector Business award, which was up for grabs at this year's Cando Conference.

Cando is the national organization that promotes economic development in Indigenous communities across Canada.

Buck's Auto Parts, located on the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation in Quebec, was the other finalist in the Indigenous Private Sector Business category.

Also being contested at this year's conference were awards in the Community of the Year and Economic Development Officer of the Year categories.

All six of the finalists were allowed to make a presentation, up to a maximum of 20 minutes, heralding their feats. Conference delegates who attended the presentations were then given a ballot and were able to vote on those they felt were most worthy of winning their categories.

Buck's Auto Parts ended up being declared the winner in the Indigenous Private Sector Business grouping.

Robert Starr, Supercom's business project manager, was still rather enthusiastic after voting results were announced.

"It was an awesome event," he said of this year's 26<sup>th</sup> annual Cando Conference. "It was great going across and talking to people about the things we've done and the things we're planning to do."

The six First Nations that comprise Supercom are situated along the route of the East-West Tie, a massive transmission project that will connect lines between Thunder Bay and Wawa.

The project began earlier this fall.

"We continue to ramp up the project," Starr said. "We're only at 30 per cent of capacity of where we want to be."

Peter Collins, the Chief of the Fort William First Nation, joined Starr at the Cando Conference and helped with the Supercom presentation.

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## Katie Young-Haddlesey

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Before becoming Curve Lake's EDO, Young-Haddlesey had done some work for the First Nation through her private consulting company, Affinity Strategic Communications.

Her resume also includes a 13-year stint working for the group now known as the Peterborough & the Kawarthas Economic Development.

Young-Haddlesey had also worked a couple of years for the company responsible for business development at the Peterborough Municipal Airport.

As for her work with the Curve Lake First Nation, one of Young-Haddlesey's most notable projects has been overseeing the creation of a new 20,000-square foot commercial centre.

Construction on this facility is expected to begin next spring.

The current business centre on the First Nation will also be upgraded in order to attract new tenants.

"Our First Nation is recognizing the importance to move forward," Young-Haddlesey said. "Part of that is building relationships. The last three years I've been working towards that."

Young-Haddlesey's EDO of the Year award signified the first time in her work career that she was singled out.

"I've won marketing awards with a team," she said. "But I've never won an individual award before."

As is her nature, Young-Haddlesey also credited others.

"I'm very proud of my staff," she said. "We have a really good team. I don't pretend that I can do anything without those people at the table with me."

## Byron Gourley

(Continued from page 69.)

Gourley's First Nation is the one benefitting from his knowledge now. And that's because he kept good on one of his promises.

About a half dozen years ago Gourley had promised then chief Freeman Ward that he would one day return and work for his First Nation.

"I gave him my word I would help our First Nation work forward in economic development," Gourley said.

Though Ward died in 2016, Gourley, who was working as an executive assistant for Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, returned home to work for his First Nation the following year.

"My contract was up and my chief scooped me up right away," said Gourley, whose previous jobs included providing online banking support for the Royal Bank of Canada and technical software support for AOL Canada.

Though he's only been employed by his First Nation for a couple of years now, Gourley is thoroughly enjoying his work.

"It's very gratifying I get to do this," he said. "It's such an honour to get them to respond to your ideas. They take everything into consideration. Fortunately, I haven't had a bad review where they've said no thanks to any of my ideas."

Gourley's recent efforts have included working on land his First Nation recently purchased in Moncton. The plan is to convert that land and use it for economic development.

## Buck's Auto Shop

(Continued from page 72.)

He sold Mani Pieces Plus so he could open Buck's Auto Shop, right across the street from a successful sports store which he has been operating since 2006.

Buckshot also continues to run a seasonal brush cutting business, from May through October.

Buckshot believes the fact he provides quality service and that those customers spread the word is one of the reasons his auto parts and body shop is successful.

"It's who you know all the time," he said. "The best publicity is word of mouth."

Buckshot believes winning the national Cando award will further his business.

"More recognition," he said, when he was asked what he thought the accolade might help achieve. "That's what we're hoping for."

Buckshot said some of his customers travel great distances.

"I have a lot of customers from James Bay," he said. "They have 10 Cree bands there. A lot of them come to Ottawa to shop and they have to pass through Minawaki. They don't have very much up there. They live 1,000-2,000 kilometres away. Some of them drive 15-20 hours to get here."

Buckshot believes there's a rather simple reason why Buck's Auto Parts has been a success.

"I think it's the service we give," he said. "People keep coming back."

Buckshot added he believes the fact he is fluent in three languages – English, French and Algonquin – is a huge benefit when talking to his customers.

(Continued from page 70.)

SRG has also turned into a business that can provide stable jobs for many of the Simpcw First Nation members.

“It’s gone from being seasonal work in construction to a year-round career for people,” Dorey said.

The Simpcw First Nation currently has about 700 members. Less than half live on the First Nation, in the community of Chu Chua.

Donald is hoping SRG’s efforts will help bring more of its members home to live on the First Nation.

“I think what we’re doing is ensuring long-term prosperity,” he said.

Recent financial figures indicate SRG is on track to achieve that.

During the 2018-19 fiscal year, it registered \$4.5 million in profits from the slightly more than \$18.6 million in revenue it brought in.

These figures were significantly higher than just one year earlier. During the 2017-18 year, SRG had about \$13.4 million in revenue and made a profit of \$2.35 million.

“We just want to keep building our business,” Donald said. “We’re not done. We’ve got big aspirations and we want to keep working on our strategic plan.”

For Donald this year marked the ninth time he has attended the Cando Conference.

“It’s always very informative,” he said. “I always learn a lot.”

He was especially impressed with a panel focusing on international trade.

“Maybe we’re not thinking big enough,” he said of his own First Nation’s plans.

But obviously big enough at this point to be recognized as Cando’s top community for 2019.

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The Kingsclear First Nation has about 1,100 members. About 800 of these members live on the First Nation.

Paul believes one of the reasons Kingsclear had been nominated for the Cando award is the fact its leaders are willing to listen, learn and share with others.

“What we do is we look at other communities – how they are doing and what they are doing to move things forward,” she said. “We all learn from each other by exchanging best practices.”

Paul began working for her First Nation as a youth prevention worker after earning her Business degree from the University of New Brunswick. Before becoming its EDO, Paul also worked as the Kingsclear band manager.

A project Paul as well other Kingsclear representatives have been keenly following is the announcement the province will be doing something significantly with the nearby Mactaquac Dam, which generates about one-fifth of New Brunswick’s power demands.

Options include building a new dam, refurbishing the old one or simply decommissioning the existing dam. All three choices would provide significant opportunities for Kingsclear First Nation.

Kingsclear has also been benefitting from the fact its convenience store, Wulastukw Convenience, relocated to its present location adjacent to New Brunswick’s Route 102 highway, in July of 2017. A new gas bar and a gaming centre at the location have added to the community’s revenues.

Paul added Kingsclear officials are more than willing to co-operate with others in the hopes the First Nation will be able to increase its economic development.

“We’re open to partnerships with other communities,” she said.

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“It’s unheard of in our territory to have something like this,” Collins said. “We’ve never had the six communities working together with something like this.”

The East-West Tie is expected to take two and a half years to complete. There is a mandate to complete the project by 2021.

A total of 175 people, all from one of the six First Nations that Supercom is comprised of, have already been hired to work on the project.

“You’re looking at creating generational change through this project,” Starr said, adding instead of just creating jobs Supercom officials are hoping they establish long-lasting careers for members of the various First Nations.

To this end, Supercom undertook a \$9.3 million employment and training plan in 2017, to assist those looking to improve their skills in order to eventually work on the East-West Tie project.

More than 300 individuals, the majority of them Indigenous, took part in the training and employment program. Many of those in the training program are now working on the East-West Tie in various capacities.

Supercom officials are hoping they will line up additional initiatives in the future, thus keeping its employees working after the East-West Tie is completed.

Besides hoping to drum up some additional work, Supercom officials are also hoping to inspire other First Nations to work with their Indigenous communities and perhaps even form their own business partnerships.

# NIEEF Scholarship helps offset travel costs to B.C. for Alberta student



Patrick Twinn, a member of Sawridge First Nation, is currently working on his Master of Business Administration in Indigenous Business and Leadership through Vancouver's Simon Fraser University .

**For me the journey of learning is never ending. I want to keep supporting Indigenous communities in any capacity I can.**

**By Sam Laskaris  
Cando Contributor**

Though he already has a post-secondary diploma, a degree and a decent job, Patrick Twinn is continuing to further his education.

Twinn, a member of Alberta's Sawridge First Nation, is currently working on his Master of Business Administration in Indigenous Business and Leadership through Vancouver's Simon Fraser University (SFU).

"For me the journey of learning is never ending," said Twinn, a 33-year-old who lives in Edmonton. "I want to keep supporting Indigenous communities in any capacity I can."

Twinn incurs some hefty costs to be part of the SFU program. While he is able to complete many of his necessary readings and assignments at home, the program requires him to attend 10 intakes in Vancouver, each one last between one to two weeks, during the course of the 26-month program.

"There are significant travel costs and expenses associated with that," he said.

For starters, round-trip flights from Edmonton to Vancouver cost about \$500 each time he is required to travel. And hotel prices range between \$150-\$200 per night, depending on a whether it is a busy travel season.

That's why Twinn was rather pleased to hear he's one of three recipients this year of a National Indigenous Economic Education Foundation (NIEEF) scholarship. Each winner is awarded \$2,000 through Cando, the national organization that promotes economic development in Indigenous communities across Canada.

Recipients will be recognized at the Cando Conference, which is set for Oct. 27-30 in Gatineau, Que.

"For myself it's a huge support," Twinn said of his scholarship.

Twinn is halfway through his program, having completed five of his required 10 intakes. His program will continue until the fall of 2020.

Twinn became interested in hospitality management when he started working for Edmonton's River Cree Resort and Casino in 2006.

But he returned to school and earned a Hospitality Management diploma from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton, graduating in 2011.

Two years later he earned his International Hotel Management degree from Victoria's Royal Roads University.

Twinn had spent the past three years working with a consulting company, with his responsibilities focusing on tourism and hospitality.

But he recently left that job to join the Indigenous relations team at Civeo, a company that specializes in workforce accommodation and assists those working and living away from home.

"I will probably stay here awhile," Twinn said. "It's a good organization."

Civeo recently received a Gold Level certification from the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business through its Progressive Aboriginal Relations program.

"It's a good group and I'm happy to be here," Twinn said of his current job.

**2019 NIEEF Scholarship Recipients**

# Metis student has more confidence thanks to NIEEF scholarship

Though she's now working on her second post-secondary program Kiera Kowalski is still uncertain what career path to pursue.

"I'm not 100 per cent sure," Kowalski said when asked what career she'd like to have. "My mind changes quite frequently."

But Kowalski, a 22-year-old who is Metis, believes she would like a job that involves some type of Indigenous-based education or development.

Kowalski, who grew up in northwestern Ontario town of Fort Frances, graduated earlier this year from Ottawa's Carleton University. Her degree, with combined honours, was in Journalism and Communication Studies.

Heading into her fourth and final year of that program, however, Kowalski knew she was interested in pursuing additional education.

That's because in the summer of 2018 she spent a summer in Yukon. She was one of 20 students participating in the Stories North initiative.

This program allowed students to learn about truth and reconciliation, self-governance and Indigenous issues. Students met various chiefs, former leaders and residential school survivors

It also inspired Kowalski to apply for the Masters in Indigenous Development program offered through the University of Winnipeg. She's now a first-year student at the school located in Manitoba's capital.

Kowalski is also one of three recipients this year of a National Indigenous Economic Education Foundation (NIEEF) scholarship, offered by Cando.

Each winner receives \$2,000 via the scholarship from Cando, the organization that promotes economic development in Indigenous communities across Canada.

The three NIEEF scholarship winners will be recognized at the Cando Conference, set for Oct. 27-30 in Gatineau, Que.

"It means I can pursue my studies with more confidence," Kowalski said of her scholarship, adding it is not ideal for students to be worried about finances while they are pursuing further education.

During her studies at Carleton, Kowalski was taught how to cover a number of topics. But Indigenous issues were never a focus in any of her classes.

That's certainly changed now that she's in her two-year Masters in Indigenous Development program.

"We do a lot of experience-based learning," Kowalski said.

That was right from the get-go, when Kowalski began her Winnipeg classes in late August. Her program included a one-and-a-half week orientation session, featuring three days being spent in Manitoba's First River Cree Nation, located more than 200 kilometres north of the Winnipeg university.

Besides being a bonding experience, the venture to the Fisher River Cree Nation is also intended to serve as an introduction to the program's goals.

The program includes a pair of field placements, lasting 10-12 weeks. One placement is in Canada while the other is abroad, in an Indigenous community or with an organization working with an Indigenous community.



It means I can pursue my studies with more confidence.

By Sam Laskaris  
Cando Contributor

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# Cree student wins national Cando scholarship for second consecutive year

Every little bit helps.

That's the attitude taken by Taylor Wilson, who's in her second and final year of the Master's in Development Practice program offered at the University of Winnipeg.

The program, which focuses on Indigenous development, is a costly one as tuition is \$22,000 per year.

It's also why Wilson, a member of Manitoba's Fisher River Cree Nation, sought out as much financial assistance as she could.

A year ago she was fortunate to be one of the three recipients of a National Indigenous Economic Education Foundation (NIEEF) scholarship. Each winner received \$2,000 via Cando, the organization that promotes economic development in Indigenous communities across Canada.

Despite winning the scholarship in 2018, a guidance counselor at the University of Winnipeg suggested to Taylor to send in another application this year.

As it turned out, the 25-year-old was once again selected as one of the three scholarship recipients for 2019.

"I was surprised to win it again," she said. "I was encouraged to apply again but I was told not to get my hopes up."

Taylor will be recognized at the Cando Conference, which will be held Oct. 27-30 in the Quebec city of Gatineau.

Taylor has a rather good inkling of where her NIEEF scholarship money will go.

"It's probably going towards my tuition," she said. "My program is one of

the most expensive grad programs in Manitoba."

Taylor added the money she'll receive does indeed come in rather handy.

"Scholarships help out a ton," she said. "Not only is tuition expensive but going to school takes up a lot of time. It basically is a full-time job."

Because of the time commitments required for their studies, Wilson added many post-secondary students simply do not have the availability to have even a part-time job during the school year.

Wilson had previously graduated from the University of Winnipeg in 2016, with a Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology and Conflict Resolution.

And she's also planning to continue her education after earning her Masters. She'd like to go on and get a PhD, potentially becoming a professor who mentors Indigenous students.

Taylor said she's considering applying to various universities in Canada for her PhD program. Plus she's also thinking of continuing her studies in either Australia or New Zealand, two countries she visited this past summer.

If she chooses not to head to a faraway country, Taylor said she might also look into programs offered at American schools.

"There's a lot of options on the table," she said.

But she's not certain if she would seriously consider heading south of the border.

"It's a little closer to home," she said. "But I'm still unsure if I would want to go to school in the U.S. right now given their current political climate."



**Scholarships help out a ton. Not only is tuition expensive but going to school takes up a lot of time. It basically is a full-time job.**

**By Sam Laskaris  
Cando Contributor**

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# Scholarship lessens worries for national youth panelist heading overseas

Aubrey-Anne Laliberte-Pewapisconias was starting to worry.

But then the 20-year-old, who is in her third year of studying Business at the University of Saskatchewan, received some positive news that she had won a scholarship, somewhat relieving her financial worries.

Laliberte-Pewapisconias, a member of the Canoe Lake Cree Nation in Saskatchewan, is heading off to England in the new year. She'll complete her academic year on an exchange program, studying at the University of Essex.

She'll remain overseas to work in a London-based public relations firm next summer before returning home for her fourth year at the University of Saskatchewan.

Laliberte-Pewapisconias will be able to cover a portion of her costs while she's in England thanks to a \$2,500 scholarship she won through AECOM, following her participation at Cando's Economic Development Youth Summit this past July in Enoch, Alta.

Laliberte-Pewapisconias said the funds via the AECOM scholarship came at a timely moment as she prepares to head to England.

"The exchange rate is 1.5 times higher than what we have here," she said. "I was starting to worry how I was going to pay for everything. But this scholarship gave me a little help for that and made me realize things would be okay."

Those who attended Cando's youth summit were eligible for the scholarship.

"I was extremely surprised to win it," Laliberte-Pewapisconias said. "I met so many successful youth at the conference.



Aubrey-Anne Laliberte-Pewapisconias accepts the AECOM Economic Development Youth Summit Scholarship from AECOM's Manoj Mistry.

I thought I wasn't even close (in terms of accomplishments) to them. I was just happy to have been there and to have met them."

Following the four-day youth summit, those who wanted to vie for the AECOM scholarship were required to fill out an application. The process included writing a 500-word essay on their goals and the goals of their community.

"I wrote about honesty and how important it is to do something for your community," she said.

Laliberte-Pewapisconias was presented with her scholarship at this year's Cando Conference, held Oct. 27-30 in Gatineau, Que.

**Continued on page 80.**

**I was extremely surprised to win it. I met so many successful youth at the conference. I thought I wasn't even close (in terms of accomplishments) to them.**

**By Sam Laskaris  
Cando Contributor**

**AECOM - Youth Summit Scholarship Recipient**

**January/February 2020**

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**edo.ca**

# Scholarship lessens worries

Continued from page 79.

Cando, the organization that promotes economic development in Indigenous communities across Canada, stages an annual conference, rotating sites throughout the country.

Besides showing up to receive her scholarship award, Laliberte-Pewapisconias had another reason to attend this year's Cando Conference.

She had been selected to be one of the six members on Cando's National Youth Panel. Each panelist delivered a presentation on their accomplishments.

Laliberte-Pewapisconias has been proving that it's not only those from major centres that can make a huge difference.

"I think it's meaningful, especially coming from a small Saskatchewan community where you hear about bigger places like Toronto and Vancouver," she said of her participation on the National Youth Panel. "It's hard to imagine that you too can make a big difference."

Laliberte-Pewapisconias has already made vital contributions at her Canadian university.

For example, she founded the Indigenous Business Students' Society (IBSS) last fall. This group, open to all Indigenous students at the school, is intended to make all feel welcome.

The IBSS, which had about 50 members in its inaugural year, also hosted a gala featuring Indigenous community leaders where students were encouraged to network for some possible future work positions.

As for Laliberte-Pewapisconias, after she completes her University of Saskatchewan degree she's hoping to attend the University of Victoria to earn her MBA.

Ideally, she'd like to return to her home province after that and get a job with the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA). She's worked as a SIGA summer student the past two years.

Laliberte-Pewapisconias said she'd welcome the chance to work for the non-profit organization on a full-time basis because of how it operates, investing its profits back into communities.

Half of these profits are distributed among the 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan.

"For me to work for what is unlike any other organization in Canada really means a lot to me," she said.

**NIEEF** | National Indigenous Economic  
Education Fund

## YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

### National Indigenous Economic Education Fund (NIEEF) Scholarships

NIEEF is Cando's charitable organization, which grants annual scholarships to Indigenous students studying in a field related to economic development.

To be eligible, students must be attending or currently enrolled in a program at a post-secondary institution, and must be a Cando student member.

Preference will be given to students enrolled in one of Cando's Accredited Institutions.

This year, NIEEF will be granting four scholarships each worth \$2,000.

The deadline to apply for a  
NIEEF Scholarship is July 31, 2020.  
Info.: [www.edo.ca/youth/nieef-scholarships](http://www.edo.ca/youth/nieef-scholarships)

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# building brighter futures

Bursaries, Scholarships, and Awards



## CIBC NIEEF Scholarships

This award will be distributed annually to a first-year Indigenous student who is studying in a four-year degree program studying in the fields of: Business Administration/Economics, Business Finance, Business Management, Natural Resources or Community Economic Development.

## CIBC NIEEF Scholarships

This award will be distributed annually to Indigenous students who are studying in a two-year diploma program studying in the fields of: Business Administration/Economics, Business Finance, Business Management, Natural Resources or CED.

## CIBC NIEEF Scholarships

This award will be distributed annually to an Indigenous student who is studying in any year of a two-year diploma or four-year degree program studying in the fields of: Business Administration/Economics, Business

Finance, Business Management, Natural Resources or CED. This student will receive the CANDO funds and the matched funds and the successful candidate will only be eligible for this specific award once.



**Program of Study:** Business Administration/Economics, Business Finance, Business Management, Natural Resources or Community Economic Development  
**Level of Study:** Entering first year of a four-year degree program

**Two Awards: \$10,000 per year for up to 4 years per student**

**Program of Study:** Business Administration/Economics, Business Finance, Business Management, Natural Resources or CED

**Level of Study:** Two-year or four-year program.

**Four Awards: \$5,000 per year for up to 2 years per student**

**Program of Study:** Business Administration/Economics, Business Finance, Business Management, Natural Resources or CED

**Level of Study:** Any year of a two-year or four-year program.

**One Award: \$4,000 for one year**

**Application Deadlines:** February 1  
August 1  
November 1

[indspirefunding.ca/cando](http://indspirefunding.ca/cando)



  
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