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CONNECT

NOV./DEC. 2017 | Vol. 4 No. 4

magazine

Moving Indigenous Economies Forward



**Economic
Developer
Award
Finalists**

**Cando
Conference
Coverage**

**NIEEF
Scholarship
Recipients**

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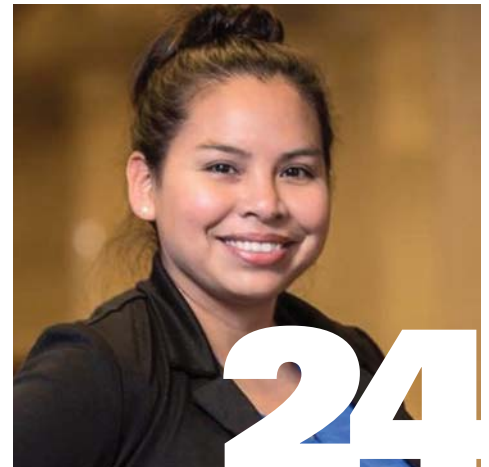
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Cover image: Wayne Brooks (St. Mary's First Nation) and Hone Mihaka (Nga Puhi) share a traditional greeting after discovering their mutual passion for canoes while on a community tour during the Cando Conference. Photo: Nelson Cloud

Cando Connect Magazine is produced by Cando under the direction of Paul Macedo, Communications Officer. If you have any story ideas and/or suggestions for improving *Cando Connect* please contact Paul directly at:
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- Adam Budzinski, Valard President & CEO

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THANK YOU!

After many months of preparation, Cando's 24th Annual National Conference & AGM, the most innovative economic development conference in Canada, is now behind us. We were fortunate this year to find ourselves in beautiful New Brunswick with the opportunity to explore the culture and traditions of Indigenous peoples of the Mi'kmaq and Wolastoq (Maliseet) traditional territories. Cando conferences would not be possible without the contributions of our host communities and organizations and we have been privileged this year to work with the St. Mary's First Nation and the Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI).

We had an exciting four days. There was a great variety of training, workshops, plenary and keynote speakers, a tradeshow and artisan exhibit, inspiring showcases and celebrations, as well as numerous networking events such as the Icebreaker Reception, Cultural Night, community tour of St. Mary's First Nation and the President's Reception, Dinner & Dance.

We hope you were inspired by our keynote speakers who brought tremendous knowledge and passion from across the country and across the globe. Hone Mihaka from New Zealand certainly made an indelible impression on many who listened to his life story and the forces that shape his very successful tourism operation and cultural identity.

Cando is very grateful to the Conference Committee and the Atlantic Regional Working Group who worked hard to ensure that there was mix of regional and national community economic development content at this year's conference. There were also many opportunities throughout the various conference activities to meet, share, learn, honour and celebrate the growing success of Indigenous community economic development in Canada. We feel confident that the knowledge shared at this conference were some of the best ideas and practices in Indigenous economic development, and we hope that this knowledge exchange will continue to help Indigenous people everywhere achieve greater self-sufficiency and prosperity.

Cando could not have organized this year's Annual National Conference & AGM without the commendable effort of the Conference Committee & Atlantic Regional Working Group and the extraordinary support of our stakeholders. We hope you took the opportunity to explore the culture and traditions of the local First Nations and that you enjoyed your stay in Fredericton, New Brunswick as much as we did!

We now look forward to planning another fantastic conference for 2018! It will be Cando's 25th Annual National Conference and AGM and it will be held at River Cree Resort in Enoch, Alberta. Hope to see you all there!

Cando Conference Speakers and Guests



Photo: Nelson Cloud

Maliseet Traditional Elder Maggie Paul (left) is greeted by Keynote Speaker Hone Mihaka with Taiamai Tours Heritage Journeys from New Zealand.

Cando Conference Speakers and Guests



Photo: Paul Macedo

Many conference delegates braved the cool temperatures for a powerful sunrise ceremony held by Elder Imelda Perley along the shore of the Wolastoq.



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-Chief Dennis Meeches

Cando Conference Speakers and Guests



Above: Stan Wesley (MC), Ray Wanuch (Cando), Keith Matthew (Cando President) with 2017 National Youth Panel.



Right: Cando Conference MC - Stan Wesley



Above: Welcome song by Muskrat Singers.



Left: Chief Joe Augustine, AFN Regional Chief

All Photos: Nelson Cloud

Cando Conference Speakers and Guests



Above: Breezy Machin (Cando) and MC Stan Wesley.



Above: Checking out the artisans' booths.



Right: First Nations - Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI)

All Photos: Nelson Cloud



Allan Pochies Jr. served as our fabulous tour guide and also was MC for the President's Dinner.



Keynote Speaker Manny Jules and Keith Matthew (Cando President)

Cando Conference Speakers and Guests



Above: Hone Mihaka delivers his powerful keynote to conference delegates on Monday morning.

Top Right: Ray Wanuch (Cando) takes a moment to thank Hone Mihaka after his keynote. Hone holds his first-born infant son.

Right: Hone Mihaka speaks with conference delegates



All Photos: Paul Macedo

Cando Conference Speakers and Guests



Local youth were invited to attend the Cando Conference.

All Photos: Nelson Cloud



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Cando Conference Culture Night



Cando Conference Culture Night



Photo: Nelson Cloud

All the performers pose for a group photo at the end of a fabulous evening of sharing their stories of life along the Wolastoq.



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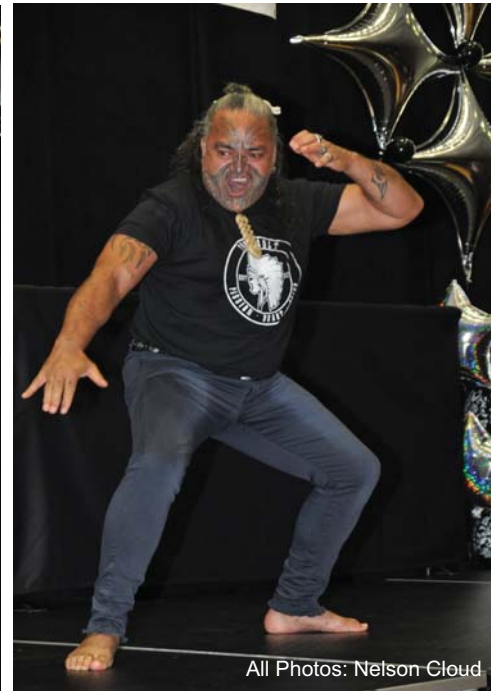


Cando Conference President's Dinner



(Above) - Sisters of the Drum - Pokuhulakon Witsehkehsu welcome all delegates attending the President's Dinner in Fredericton, NB.

(Below) - Hone Mihaka - Bay of Islands, New Zealand performs his first Haka for his infant son. Thank you Hone. What an honour it was to witness it.



All Photos: Nelson Cloud

Cando Conference President's Dinner



All Photos: Nelson Cloud

Above: (left to right) outgoing Cando Board members John Hazenberg and Norma Spence are thanked for their contributions to Cando by Ray Wanuch, Cando Executive Director.



Cando staff Jessica Barry, Danielle Stanley and Breezy Machin before the festivities begin at the President's Dinner.

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DJ Dwayne Ward from Listuguj Quebec strikes a pose.



Percy Sacobie, Muskrat Singers; Hone Mihaka, Keynote Speaker (holding his infant son); Chief Candice Paul, St. Mary's First Nation; Kim Nash-McKinley



Rose Paul, EDO from Paqtnekek Mi'kmaw Nation was nominated for EDO of the Year.



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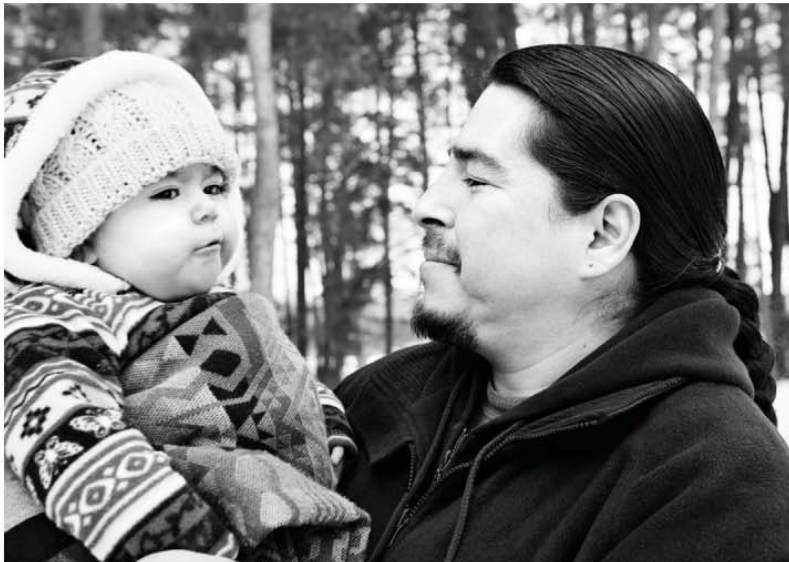
Cando Conference President's Dinner



Above: (left to right) Allan Polchies Jr, Val Polchies, Kim Nash-McKinley, Stanley Barnaby are thanked for their work on the Conference Committee by Keith Matthew, Cando President.



All Photos: Nelson Cloud
Allan Polchies Jr. was MC along with Stan Wesley for the President's Dinner.



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“Taking a New Route”



CEDI Partnership Highlight: Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation and the Municipality of the County of Antigonish

**By Marissa Lawrence and Tanya Tourangeau
CEDI team members**

During the summer of 2016, the Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation and the Municipality of the County of Antigonish entered a collaborative partnership through the First Nation-Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI). Together, they agreed to work to develop joint community economic initiatives with the goal of strengthening their local and regional economies.

CEDI is a national program co-managed by Cando and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). The program uses the 'Stronger Together' approach, a four-stage planning strategy that incorporates relationship building and capacity building throughout the process.

One year into the CEDI program, Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation and the Municipality of the County of Antigonish remain dedicated to the process, and through a representative working group, are working to formalize their partnership. In November 2017, the Chief, Warden, council members and working group from both communities, along with regional partners,

participated in the KAIROS Blanket Exercise and drafted a Relationship Accord. This Relationship Accord will provide a foundation for areas of potential collaboration, including: Additions to Reserve (ATR) and taxation, land use planning and shared services, active transportation and recreation, investment attraction, and renewable energy sources.

The CEDI partnership is one important priority among several for Paqtnekek. The community is moving forward on a fifteen-million-dollar Highway Interchange project, resulting from a successful community vote in favour of surrendering twenty-seven hectares of land for this project. This is a significant development for the community, and it is anticipated to contribute to increased community connectivity, create jobs in the short and long term, increase business opportunities and provide serviceable land for future growth.

“The Highway Development project represents a milestone in the history of our community. CEDI provided a foundation for us to come together and discuss joint community economic development opportunities through mutual respect, trust and collaboration,” shared Paqtnekek Chief, PJ Prosper.

Rose Paul, Paqtnekek’s Economic Development Officer, recently received the 2017 Cando EDO of the Year for her leadership on the project. “The Paqtnekek highway interchange project is the game changer for the community, it’s setting the

path for seven generations ahead,” said Rose Paul.

In addition, County of Antigonish Warden, Owen McCarron is extremely supportive of the highway interchange recognizing the impact that it will have - not only on Paqtnekek’s economy - but also for the CEDI joint economic development initiatives;

“I see the Highway Interchange project changing the face of our community. It opens access to Paqtnekek Mi’kmaw Nation while creating an economic anchor midway between Antigonish and Cape Breton. It is opening doors for economic development, creating opportunities for both on reserve and off reserve residents. This development benefits the entire community by increasing our self-sufficiency and sustainability, in essence sending the message we are open for business,” said Warden Owen McCarron.

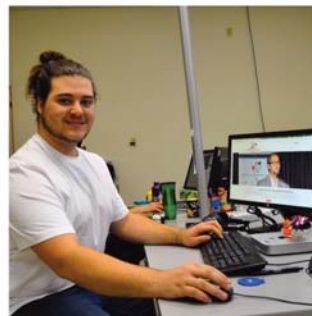
In this one short year with CEDI, Paqtnekek Mi’kmaw Nation and the Municipality of the County of Antigonish have proven to be leaders in First Nation-municipal collaboration. They have a sincere interest in learning about one another’s culture, history and governance systems, and have a unique dedication to finding new ways forward together towards a shared goal of regional prosperity.

Look for more CEDI updates in future editions of *Cando Connects* as we share stories and lessons learned from CEDI partnerships across Canada.

CCNB, proud training partner of First Nations!

Collège Communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick (CCNB) is extremely proud to work with New-Brunswick’s First Nations Communities to provide quality and customized accredited training programs that lead to meaningful employment opportunities. CCNB has developed a solid and respectful working relationship with the First Nations communities across the province and strategic partnership with the Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI) for the delivery portion of their programs.

The diversity of the training programs offered spans various sectors. Whether it’s fishing, mining, trucking, carpentry or even computer sciences, CCNB is working hand in hand with our First Nations partners to develop training programs that meet the cultural and economic needs of First Nations and of the labor market.



University Of Winnipeg Grads in Master's Program will also receive Cando Certification

By Sam Laskaris
Cando Writer

Completing a certain Master's program at the University of Winnipeg will have even more significance now.

Those that now graduate from the Master's in Development Practice: Indigenous Development program will also have met all the requirements to be awarded the Technician Aboriginal Economic Developer (TAED) certificate through Cando.

Cando is the national Indigenous organization that promotes economic development.

The five-year accreditation agreement between the University of Winnipeg and Cando was announced at the Cando Conference staged in Fredericton in late October. The agreement will be reviewed, and possibly renewed in 2022, upon the completion of the current five-year term.

"It surely enhances the professional opportunities for our students," said Jennifer Ledoux, the career counselor for the university's program.



Jennifer Ledoux



Vanessa Tait



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Ledoux also said networking opportunities offered to those with Cando certification will be a huge plus for the graduates of the Winnipeg Master's program.

The program was already one-of-a-kind to begin with. Globally there are a total of 30 schools that offers the Master's in Development Practice

program. But the University of Winnipeg is the only one which focuses on Indigenous development.

"I think that's very unique," Ledoux said.

Cando's certification co-ordinator Vanessa Tait is thrilled with the new agreement.

Continued on page 23.



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“In having the University of Winnipeg as an accredited institute it ensures that there are more options to certify Aboriginal economic development officers,” she said. “Cando is pleased to have this partnership, as it will ensure Cando’s curriculum-based competency requirements are met and will standardize the skills and knowledge of Aboriginal economic development officers across Canada.”

A number of other post-secondary schools from across the country have been offering Cando certification upon completion of their programs. But the University of Winnipeg became the first one to be awarded the ability to grant Cando certification since the organization altered its competency requirements in 2015.

Previously there were 16 requirements that had to be met in order to receive the TAED certificate.

Tait said there are now 11, somewhat more stringent requirements, which have to be achieved.

Tait added schools seeking Cando accreditation must submit a self-study preparation binder, detailing how its program meets TAED competencies. A site visit from Cando officials is also required in order for certification to be granted.

Tait added the new agreement between the University of Winnipeg and Cando will prove to be beneficial.

“This further assures students enrolled in the accredited program are getting relevant and practical education to enhance and recognize the reputation of Aboriginal practitioners,” she said.

For more information on Cando Certification and/or the full list of Accredited Institutions please visit the website at: www.edo.ca/certification/accredited-programs



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**Scholarship
supports
student in
program that
serves
“my heart
and my
brain”**

**By Shari Narine
Cando Contributor**

A \$2,000 scholarship from the National Indigenous Economic Education Fund is a “huge relief” for her family, says recipient Kandice Charlie.

“My husband falling sick for a while, it was all falling on me to financially support us,” said Charlie. “It’s not like we have an extra \$1,000 for winter tires and we need to keep our family safe and we live remotely on a reserve. So anything like that is something I don’t have to worry about or stress out about.”

Charlie, registered to the Xaxl’ip community of the St’at’imc Nation, lives in Sts’ailes with her husband and two children. She has spent the past 10 years working with Sts’ailes leaders and community champions on a variety of projects and community initiatives, which has provided her with a hands-on approach to looking at self-determination and economic viability and sustainability.

It was with this experience in mind that Charlie decided to pursue an Executive Master of Business Administration program in Aboriginal Business and Leadership.

But what's unique about this program is that it's woven very nicely with Aboriginal values and Aboriginal management. In an Aboriginal organization it's not necessarily the same as maybe a corporate organization but you kind of get the flavour of both.

"It's the first of its kind and what I wanted was to gain knowledge in mainstream business and business development area. But what's unique about this program is that it's woven very nicely with Aboriginal values and Aboriginal management. In an Aboriginal organization it's not necessarily the same as maybe a corporate organization but you kind of get the flavour of both," said Charlie.

The scholarship money helps with the costs of living in Vancouver for six weeks over the seven-month time frame needed for her to do her course work at the Beedie School of Business at Simon Fraser University where she's enrolled in her second year of the program. Charlie leaves Vancouver with her assignments and can complete them in her home community.

Charlie achieved a 3.83 grade point average in her first year.

"Kandice brings a wealth of community-based knowledge, experience, sensitivity and understanding of Indigenous issues, such as governance, social welfare and economic development," said Mark Selman, director of the EMBA program.

"Her classroom contributions consistently show her genuine interest and passion for her community and family," said Selman.

Charlie stresses that both community involvement and connection with her culture are important.

"I do my best to stay informed and involved when possible," she said. "I carry myself as a proud First Nation's woman and I encourage our teaching with my children and those around me. I am still growing and eager to learn our culture and

traditions, a lifelong journey I will always embrace."

Paul Andrew, finance manager with Sts'ailes, calls Charlie "a great example for the youth in the community (and)... a successful hardworking St'at'imc that knows her community, culture and travels home regularly to practice her Aboriginal rights and her culture."

To that end, Charlie says the Executive Master of Business Administration program in Aboriginal Business and Leadership is a perfect fit for her.

"It's a very unique program and it serves my heart and my brain well," she said.

She plans to bring back to her community what she learns in order to build capacity, strengthen the local organizations, and help in making informed decisions.

Strong mother, strong student recipient of scholarship



By Shari Narine
Cando Contributor

Sheila Peter-Paul is “honoured” to be one of three recipients of the National Indigenous Economic Education Fund scholarship. But the \$2,000 win means more than financial aid.

“Being awarded the NIEEF scholarship gives me reassurance that I am capable of achieving my goals and passions,” she said. “Being a successful applicant motivates me to work to the best of my ability.”

Having an eight-year-old daughter to care for, the money will also help relieve some of the financial burden.

After working for 11 years in social development for her band, Eel River Bar First Nation, in New Brunswick, Peter-Paul discovered her “love for numbers” and decided to take a leave of absence in order to pursue training in accounting.

“It took a lot of courage for me to do such a thing, but going back to school has proven that if you have a love for something, you cannot let fear of the unknown stand in your way. I am ecstatic to be a mature student and I have grown in so many ways,” she said.

She is currently in her second year of a business administration accounting program at New Brunswick Community College Fredericton and this year is also serving as treasurer for the students’ union.

Peter-Paul’s success at school – where she has maintained a 3.9 grade point average – comes as no surprise to Patricia Miller, member of the Eel

River Bar band council. Miller worked closely with Peter-Paul in a number of departments, including education and social development.

“Sheila’s dedication to these programs, organizational skills and attention to detail was an asset for not only meeting clients and students needs but for the Eel River Bar Band as well. These qualities ensured that tasks were completed promptly and accurately and on more than one occasion was able to identify oversights that helped the band financially,” said Miller.

But Peter-Paul was not only recognized for her workplace skills. She was also recognized for her role as a mother.

“As a mother of three, Sheila has worked extremely hard to be a role model to her children and she recently got to celebrate her eldest daughter’s graduation. Sheila has made sure her children know the value of a solid education. She continues to balance her responsibilities as a parent and as a student with a level head and works hard to never allow the other to suffer; her family can definitely be proud of their mother,” said Nancy Harn, Aboriginal student advisor at NBCC.

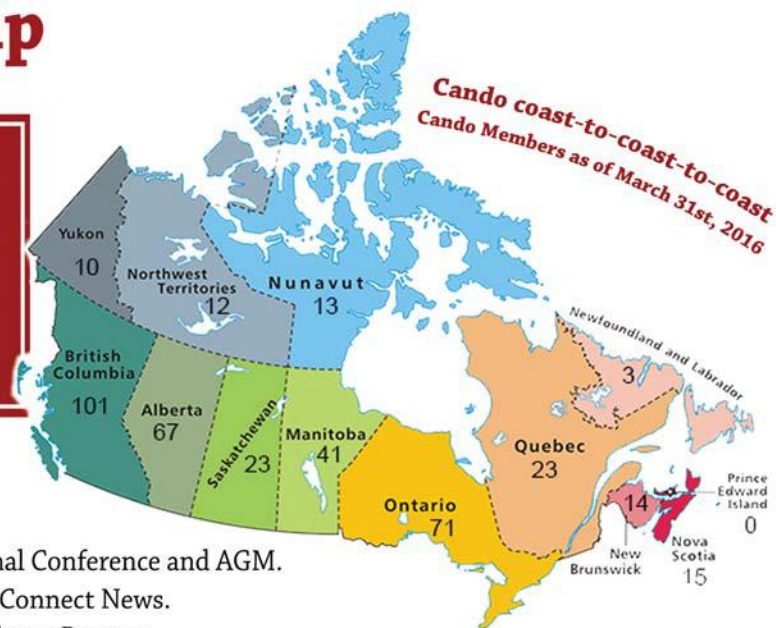
What lies ahead for Peter-Paul is exciting and the accounting program she is presently enrolled in - along with her NIEEF scholarship - will help her build that future. Her two goals are to own and operate a tea shop and to buy her first home.

“I know it is important to stay focused and not to jump ahead of myself, for now I will remain focused on my education and then look to building a career,” said Peter-Paul.

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- 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.

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www.edo.ca/about-cando/membership


Inspiring Success

Second year recipient sees scholarship as affirmation of hard work



Quinn Meawasige

Photo: Supplied

When he graduates Quinn wants to work as an economic development officer with a focus on language and culture.

**By Shari Narine
Cando Contributor**

“This ongoing support really affirms why I’m here pursuing an education. I really want to learn as much as I can and give back to my community,” said Quinn Meawasige, who received his second consecutive National Indigenous Economic Education Foundation scholarship.

Getting the \$2,000 NIEEF scholarship, along with being recognized with the Great Lakes Honda Community Driven Award and the Presidential Student Appreciation Award, all encourage Meawasige to continue his hard work

as he enters his third year in his four-year honours degree in community economic and social development at Algoma University, in Sault Ste-Marie.

Meawasige came late to formal education and because of that wasn’t prioritized for funding from his First Nation of Serpent River. Without that band funding, he’s had to cobble together his own sources of revenue to make his education happen and he says the NIEEF scholarship “was a breath of fresh air.”

Meawasige has received glowing commendations from his teachers.

“Both in and out of class, I have observed Quinn develop and demonstrate extraordinary qualities that will serve him well in life, and as a future First Nations economic officer, community development officer, and political leader,” said Prof. Derek Rice.

Meawasige is no stranger to politics. In fact, at the age of 18, he was elected as the youngest Serpent River band council member ever. It was this experience that pushed him to pursue his education in order to be able to develop the capacity and knowledge required to spearhead and develop the programs he wanted.

“It was a learning experience for me,” said Meawasige, now 23. “I had many a great idea for our community but I just lacked a little bit of skill and knowledge and education on how to

actually bring about the change and the stuff I wanted to see in my community.”

Meawasige has been active on campus at Algoma University.

“Quinn contributes significantly to the university community and student life at Algoma, through engaging openly from a strong sense of identity and culture,” said Sheila Gruner, department chair for the community economic and social development program.

Half way through the four year program, Meawasige still sees it as “an amazing fit” for what he wants to do.

“The program talks about essentially developing the community from the ground up instead of the top down and how to build resilience into the community,” he said.

Along with studying, Meawasige serves on the economic development board on Serpent River First Nation, already putting into use what he is learning. The work with the board is heavily focused on providing skills and opportunities to community members to successfully develop and operate their own businesses. He says he sees a difference in what he brings to the board after two years of studies at Algoma University compared to what he was able to accomplish as a council member.

He is also pursuing Anishinaabe language through the Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig institution, which is on the Algoma University site.

When he graduates Meawasige wants to work as an economic development officer with a focus on language and culture.

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.

This year, NIEEF will be granting three scholarships each worth \$2,000. **The deadline to apply for a NIEEF scholarship is on June 30, 2018!**

Aboriginal Economic Developer Certification Process

Cando has certified over 300 professionals across Canada at both the Technician Aboriginal Economic Developer (TAED) and Professional Aboriginal Economic Developer (PAED) Levels. Being certified assures employers that you are highly qualified to practice in the field of Aboriginal Economic Development.

If you're looking to enhance your skills, further your career and be recognized as an expert in Aboriginal economic development, then Cando's Certified Aboriginal Economic Developer Process is for you.

National Youth Panel

The National Youth Panel is an inspiring showcase of the achievements of six highly motivated Indigenous youth from across Canada who have been nominated by their peers and recognized as national role models. All selected panelists are invited to the Annual National Cando Conference & AGM where they will share their inspiring

Do you know someone who should be on the Youth Panel?

2017 National



Dustin Fiddler, SK

Melissa Lunney, NB

Keshia Moffat, NB

Te

al Youth Panel



Teagyn Vallevand, YT

Jacob Crane, AB

Jacquelyn Cardinal, AB

Special skills will play valuable role for community service

Being put forward to potentially serve a similar role in the community is a responsibility I understand, and is one I am always honoured to do my best to uphold

Jacquelyn Cardinal

By Shari Narine
Cando Contributor

At 26 years of age, Jacquelyn Cardinal received an opportunity very few ever will: she was invited to present to the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples.

“The experience (was) fortifying. Not only because it was a moment that I was able to look up from the day-to-day of running my business and take some time to appreciate that I’m using the talents my ancestors have given me on the path that I’ve chosen, but also in that I was able to see firsthand that there are other Indigenous youth quietly working away in their corner of Canada towards achieving goals similar to mine. The strength that comes from seeing that I’m not *actually* alone, though I might feel like I am sometimes, is something that no words can describe,” said Cardinal, who is Sakwithiniwak from the Sucker Creek Cree First Nation.

Cardinal’s presentation focused on the work her Edmonton-based company Naheyawin does in imagining contemporary treaty relations, the role of new technologies in building those relationships, and the important role youth entrepreneurs will play in the unfolding of the promise of Canada.

It is this experience that Cardinal feels she can bring to Cando’s National Youth Panel.

“I think what is unique about the perspective I’ve gained from following my passion for technology is that I’ve found that these new tools have the potential to be truly uniquely valuable for Indigenous peoples if they are used as a means to achieve goals rooted in Indigenous thought, goals, and worldviews. They are not the goal, nor do they actually hold any truths in themselves, just as a hammer or arrowhead does not have inherent truth. This understanding has imbued my actions and perception of myself as a person with a set of skills that are a means to be of service to my community, and I take that role very seriously,” she said.

Cardinal adds that she has been inspired by the “truly great things” past panel members have done.

“Being put forward to potentially serve a similar role in the community is a responsibility I understand, and is one I am always honoured to do my best to uphold,” she said.

Each year Cando selects six Indigenous youth to form the National Youth Panel, a signature event at the Cando Annual National Conference which will be held in Fredericton, New Brunswick, from Oct. 22-25.

Selections for the panel are based on their strengths, initiatives, accomplishments, entrepreneurial spirit, and participation within their communities.

2017 National Youth Panelist

Teagyn Vallevand

By Shari Narine
Cando Contributor

Teagyn Vallevand, 21, is driven to make a difference when it comes to lateral violence and youth.

“I think it’s important for youth to understand what lateral violence is, so that we can change our behaviours in the moment and just be kinder, and take back our power in a positive way, rather than continuing the current cycle of fighting and trying to take power from each other - by hurting those closest to us like our peers, family, and community members. If we can understand that lateral violence is a learned behaviour that can be unlearned, we can start taking the first steps towards changing and reclaiming our love and sense of oneness for our communities, and relearn to love ourselves,” she said.

Vallevand and business partner Aurora Hardy operate *Youth For Lateral Kindness*, which encourages healing and healthy behaviours among Native youth and reconciliation among Yukoners.

Vallevand, a member of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation, says they hope to one day expand their services to reach Indigenous youth across Canada.

Vallevand, who works in MP Larry Bagnell’s constituency office and is also working towards a degree in First Nations self-governance and administration at Yukon College, was nominated by Gina Nagano, acting director of justice, for a position on

Cando’s National Youth Panel. Wrote Nagano, “Teagyn is a determined individual, passionate about serving her community in any way she can and empowering her peers.”

Said Vallevand of the nomination, “It means that I am doing a good job at what I love to do, and that is to serve my people.”

She feels she can bring a unique perspective to the panel.

“We are now at a point in time where there are many more Indigenous youth throughout Canada who want to know who they are, and reclaim their identities, and resurface our traditions. Coming from a background where growing up I did not have a strong connection to my Indigenous identity because of how inter-generational trauma affected my family, and from my personal experiences of lateral violence, I think I can really relate to many youth out there that are now in the same boat I was in during my high school years,” said Vallevand.

She adds she wants Indigenous youth to feel empowered.

Addressing lateral violence important for youth

We are now at a point in time where there are many more Indigenous youth throughout Canada who want to know who they are, and reclaim their identities, and resurface our traditions.

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Leading the change for economic growth

My experience that I will bring to the panel is to focus on getting things done. To show that the impossible can be done and will be done,” he said, adding that it is a “great honour” to be nominated.

By Shari Narine
Cando Contributor

Jacob Crane, 28, has ambition and vision.

After he obtains his Bachelor of Science degree from the Utah Valley University, he plans to return to his home on the Tsuut’ina Nation and run for council “so that I may lead the charge towards international business for my community.”

Initially nominated to council in 2016, Crane withdrew from the election in order to focus on his education, something he is passionate about.

But Crane is no stranger to the workings of his band council. Not only did he successfully lobby Chief and council for a youth program on Tsuut’ina Nation, which he managed, but he also served as the Chief’s assistant for 16 months, attending business meetings for future economic development on the reserve.

Crane’s ambition and vision carry through to what he wants to achieve if he is successful in attaining a position on the Cando National Youth Panel.

“My experience that I will bring to the panel is to focus on getting things done. To show that the impossible can be done and will be done,” he said, adding that it is a “great honour” to be nominated.

Jacob Crane

Along with running for council, Crane also plans to start more businesses on the southern Alberta First Nation and further his career in the economic development sector. He has a passion for teaching and speaking about entrepreneurship and would like to open his own entrepreneur consulting firm.

Crane says business is a good model for living life and he wants to share that with other Indigenous youth.

“In business things never go according to plan and it can be very disheartening when things just don’t pan out for your business so to me finding ways to cope or rebound so that you don’t become stuck in a rut is the true key to success,” he said.

Keeping grounded in his culture has also been important to Crane, who has participated in and learned from the Sundance and sweatlodges. He has been a singer, dancer and drummer at pow wows throughout Canada and the United States.

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2017 National Youth Panelist

Dustin Fiddler

By Shari Narine
Cando Contributor

At 25 years of age Dustin Fiddler became the youngest person elected to the Waterhen Lake First Nation Band Council last year.

“It was an uphill battle as my community in the past has never supported or has been hesitant to support an off-reserve candidate - let along a younger one. I knew what I wanted to achieve back home and I had three main goals for the community,” he said.

Those goals are found in the portfolios Fiddler holds: education, post-secondary education, youth and recreation, and communications. Fiddler also holds the justice and policing, and economic development portfolios. In addition, he’s working hard on the Band Custom Election Act, Membership Act, and Business Economic Development Corporation.

It’s this future focus in such a young person that prompted Devon Fiddler to nominate Dustin to National Youth Panel for Cando.

“Dustin will likely achieve more in his lifetime, and help bring up the community and youth with his positive

energy, and commitment to enhancing communication, accountability, and transparency,” wrote Devon Fiddler, social entrepreneur, and the founder and chief change maker of SheNative Goods Inc.

Being selected to the Cando panel would be a tremendous opportunity to do more for youth, says Dustin Fiddler.

“Throughout my life I have never shied away from sharing my thoughts on topics ranging from Indigenous issues to issues that affect all society. Cando also exemplifies everything that I want to bring to my community in regards to economic development,” he said.

Fiddler says he would call on his experience of studying economically successful First Nations and speaking with stand-out Indigenous business leaders to guide him in his position on the panel.

“There is a new generation of Indigenous youth that have hit the job market and the educational institutions over the last decade. In that decade we have seen a lot of changes across the country. That wave is only getting bigger and we need to better prepare our youth to take the reins and be the best advocates, leaders, and people that they can be,” said Fiddler.

Youngest band councillor wants to help guide “new generation”

Throughout my life I have never shied away from sharing my thoughts on topics ranging from Indigenous issues to issues that affect all society.

Using skills to help the next seven generations

This is how I want to give back to my people, I want to use the education and skills gained from my current work experience to be a catalyst for sustainability for the next seven generations.

Keshia Moffat

By Shari Narine
Cando Contributor

Keshia Moffat, 26, has high aspirations. The member of the Eel River Bar First Nation, in New Brunswick, wants to help First Nations develop renewable energy projects.

That's how she would like to combine her Master of Science degree in environmental sustainability with the skills she is learning from her present position with the Aboriginal Youth Internship program delivered by Eel River Bar First Nation. Through the internship program, Moffat has been connecting current entrepreneurs and future entrepreneurs with the resources needed to start or be successful in their own business.

"I believe there needs to be meaningful renewable energy projects coming to our communities but these projects need to bridge together our culture, social, economic, and environmental values. I believe by doing this, sustainability could transpire and bring about enhanced employment opportunities for future generations," said Moffat.

"This is how I want to give back to my people, I want to use the education and skills gained from my current work experience to be a catalyst for

sustainability for the next seven generations."

She believes environment and sustainability should also include economic development, capacity building socio-economic needs, traditional values and culture values. She adds that it is important that Indigenous youth be provided with resources to seek higher education.

These are the unique outlooks that she would bring to Cando's National Youth Panel.

Moffat says she is both honoured and humbled to be considered for the panel. "To be nominated instills that reassurance that the direction I am taking in my education and career path is a direction in which I can help bring meaningful knowledge and change to Indigenous people."

Moffat sets her top three priorities for Indigenous youth as education; providing strategies and programs to help with mental health and substance abuse; and environment. She sees culture playing a strong role in reaching each goal.

"It is important for Indigenous youth to have the knowledge and to continue to practice their culture when it comes to the environment as they are the next generation of leaders and change makers," she said.

2017 National Youth Panelist

Melissa Lunney

By Shari Narine
Cando Contributor

For Melissa Lunney, it's all about the words spoken by her late grandmother: "Make the best with what you've got."

For Lunney, 30 from the Elisapogtoq First Nation, it's her skills in technology and entrepreneurship that allow her to pursue social justice, environmental sustainability, gender issues, and cultural expression.

A graduate of the Joint Economic Development Initiative Mobile Application Development Course, Lunney founded Appdigenous Development Inc. in 2016, in Fredericton. Appdigenous partnered with RPC Science & Engineering to develop Doorable - a mobile app that wirelessly opens accessible doors as people approach them.

"With the data that I collect through the app, I hope to develop more assistive mobile applications. As the company grows, I plan to hire people from Indigenous communities. I believe that everyone, no matter where you live, should have the opportunity to find meaningful employment without having to move away from home communities," said Lunney.

Along with furthering her own business, Lunney also serves as market access officer with JEDI, where she works

directly with Indigenous entrepreneurs.

It's this dedication that prompted JEDI manager Stanley Barnaby to nominate her for the Cando National Youth Panel.

"While working with Melissa at JEDI, I have been able to see that she is very passionate about her own business and her roles at JEDI. She is a very diligent with her work and is a great asset to JEDI. Between her experience with her business and work experience I think she would be a great role model for Indigenous Youth," said Barnaby.

Lunney is thrilled to be in the running.

"I am very grateful to have the opportunity to share my experiences with others. It's important to see the person behind the business and see who they are, what challenges they faced and how they overcame them to accomplish their goals," she said.

Lunney says youth need to invest in themselves, particularly in their education, self-confidence and well-being.

"My story demonstrates that it's not about what you know, but rather what you learn. Every experience is a learning opportunity," she said, adding, "Know that some things are out of your hands. You can however control how you handle situations and what you do to prevent future mistakes."

Late grandmother's wisdom guides woman in her endeavours

My story demonstrates that it's not about what you know, but rather what you learn. Every experience is a learning opportunity.

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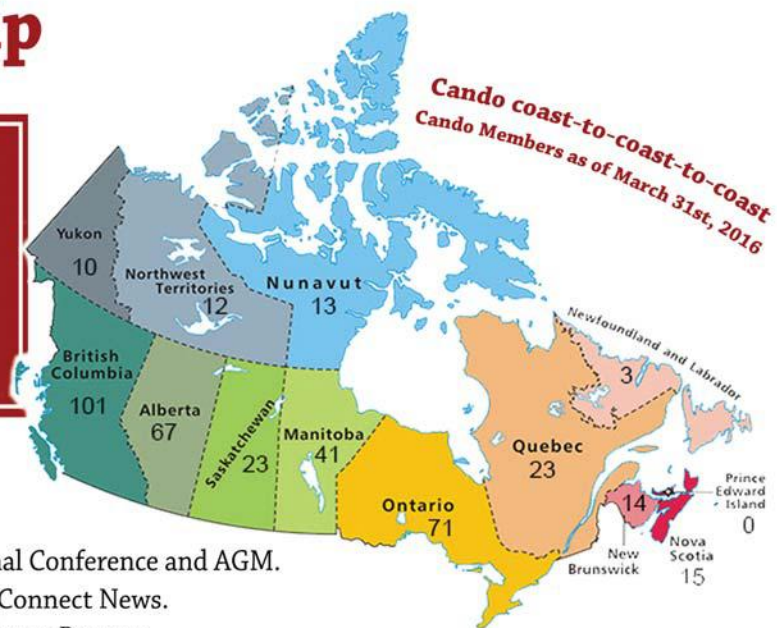
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cando
Inspiring Success

2017

Cando Economic Developer of the Year awards

October 25 - Fredericton, NB



Photo: Nelson Cloud

(Left to right) Tammy Belanger, Green Leaf Enterprises - Indigenous Private Sector Business; Chief Sidney Peters, Glooscap First Nation - Community Economic Developer of the Year; Rose Paul, Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation, Individual EDO of the Year.

Rose Paul receives national EDO of the Year Award

By Sam Laskaris
Cando Writer

Members of Nova Scotia's Paqtnkek Mi'qmaq Nation have plenty of reasons to smile these days. And they can thank Rose Paul, the director of lands and economic development of their First Nation, for that.

Shortly after joining the First Nation's administration department in 2006, Paul focussed her thoughts on the community's need to have a highway interchange.

That's because since the 1960s when Highway 104 (part of the Trans-Canada Highway) was built, the Paqtnkek First Nation was basically divided into half. The southern portions of the First Nation were not easily accessible and thus, not developed.

That is changing now though. In July of this year members of the community voted overwhelmingly to surrender parts of their land in order to have a highway interchange and connector roads built. This will allow both residential and retail properties to be built.

"It was a very long process, very difficult and a lot of barriers we had to go through," Paul said.

In part for her continued efforts in making this deal become a reality, Paul was chosen to receive Cando's economic developer officer of the year award. She was honoured at the Cando Conference, held Oct. 22-25 in Fredericton, N.B.

Cando is the national Indigenous organization that promotes economic development. During its annual conference winners were also chosen in Cando's community of the year and Aboriginal Private Sector Business categories.

Cando delegates that attended the conference voted on the winners after hearing presentations from all of the finalists.

During her allotted 20-minute presentation, Paul included various slides about her First Nation and its long-anticipated project. She discussed the history of the venture and challenges faced along the way.

Meanwhile, the vast majority of those from Paul's community were looking to develop the southern portions of their First Nation. A total of 277 ballots were cast in the land-surrendering deal and 265 of those were in favour.



Photo: Nelson Cloud

Rose Paul, the EDO for Paqtnkek Mi'qmaq Nation, receives Cando's EDO of the Year award from Keith Matthew, Cando president.

Story continued on page 46.

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Lynn Francis, Elsipogtog First Nations EDO, is runner-up for EDO of the Year

By Sam Laskaris
Cando Writer

A never-give-up attitude paid off handsomely for Lynn Francis.

For the past 20 years Francis has been employed by the Elsipogtog First Nation in New Brunswick. She's spent the last nine of those years working as the First Nation's Director of Economic Development.

In her current role Francis spent countless hours spearheading a project that had been talked about for almost 15 years. After years of waiting patiently to see what would happen, the Elsipogtog Commercial Development Centre, a facility with three tenant spaces, became a reality last October as a pair of businesses opened their doors.

One of the stores is a Pharmasave, the first location of this nationwide pharmacy chain which is owned and operated by a First Nation.

River of Fire Market, a 10,000-square foot grocery store, is also located in the centre.

Details of what business will be occupying the third rental space have yet to be officially announced. But the hope is a tenant will be in the venue in the near future.

Francis was in charge of a management team which kept the project alive all these years, despite numerous obstacles.

"I'm very proud of the work we did, along with the support of the Chief and council," she said.

For her dedicated efforts, primarily with the \$10 million centre which opened last fall, Francis was one of the four nominees for Cando's individual economic development officer of the year.

This list was then cut down to two finalists, which included Francis. Finalists in this category, as well as the Aboriginal Private Sector Business and community of the year categories, were then invited to the Cando Conference, held Oct. 22-25 in Fredericton, N.B.

Cando is the national Indigenous organization that promotes economic development.

After hearing presentations from all of the finalists, Cando conference delegates then voted on the winners for all three categories.

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Photo: Nelson Cloud

Lynn Francis, the Director of Economic Development for the Elsipogtog First Nation, led a management team which successfully brought a pharmacy and grocery store to the community.

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Carcross/Tagish First Nation Community Economic Developer Award Finalist

By Sam Laskaris
Cando Writer

Members of the Carcross/Tagish Management Corporation have not been resting on their laurels.

Officials with the corporation, the economic arm of the Yukon-based Carcross/Tagish First Nation, continue to seek ways to improve their recent successes while exploring other opportunities as well.

One of the economic development initiatives in the community is the Carcross Commons, a retail village featuring various shops and restaurants. Following a recent expansion, the Commons, which began with eight units now features 21 units.

All but a coffee shop are now closed for the winter. But all of the units are scheduled to re-open again in 2018.

And there's also a waiting list of others looking to become part of the venue.

"We're looking to potentially expand on that site," said Nelson Lepine, the President and CEO of the Carcross/Tagish Management Corporation. "But we need approval from our territorial government. We can't grow any more unless they evolve with us. We want to manage the growth. And we want to bring as many citizens as we can here. We're trying to be as diverse as we can be."

Lepine said adding a marina to Carcross Commons is a possibility. And relocating seven retail trailers to expand the site has also been discussed.

"We're talking about different things," he said. "But we can't do anything unless the territorial government chooses to do so."

Besides earning praise for its various ventures, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation was also one of the five nominees this year for Cando's community of the year award.

Carcross/Tagish ended up being selected as one of the two finalists in its category for a Cando award.

As a result, Lepine travelled to Fredericton, N.B. to attend the Cando Conference, which was held Oct. 22-25. At the conference Lepine made a presentation on behalf of his First Nation.

Story continued on page 47.



Photo: Nelson Cloud

Following a recent expansion, the Carcross Commons, which is becoming a popular tourist attraction, now features 21 units.

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Glooscap wins national community economic development award

By Sam Laskaris
Cando Writer

Nova Scotia's Glooscap First Nation has made some giant strides in recent years.

"For such a young community, we have come a long way," said Chief Sidney Peters, who has held his position since 2012.

The Glooscap First Nation, which was only established in 1986, has undergone tremendous growth under Peters' leadership.

In fact, thanks in part to various successful ventures the First Nation has captured some national recognition. Glooscap was chosen as Cando's community of the year.

Glooscap captured this accolade following a vote of delegates that attended the Cando Conference, staged Oct. 22-25 in Fredericton, N.B.

"I'm happy of course and excited about it," Peters said. "It's nice to see your peers recognize all the efforts you have put in. Sometimes you don't think how much time you've put into it."

Cando, the national Indigenous organization that promotes economic development, also recognized recipients in Aboriginal Private Sector Business and individual economic development officer categories at its annual conference.

Glooscap currently has 375 members. About 100 of those live on the First Nation.

"We're a small community," Peters said. "But we have big dreams."

Peters said he didn't feel out of place at the Cando Conference, even while seeing others from much larger First Nations discussing projects in their own communities.

"I felt comfortable there," he said. "What I liked about it was people were coming up to me and telling me how happy they are with what we have done."

Peters believes having a progressive council and a qualified and dedicated staff has resulted in recent growth on his First Nation.

"We are also lucky that we have very positive relationships with all levels of government, municipal, provincial and federal," he said. "While we don't always agree on government policies and how they operate, we work to develop positive, honest and long-term relationships with government and their staff."

Story continued on page 47.



Photo: Nelson Cloud

Nova Scotia's Glooscap First Nation has grown economically in recent years under the leadership of Chief Sidney Peters.

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Mi'kmaq creator of software system is finalist for national award

By Sam Laskaris
Cando Writer

A band management software system that he created is earning an Indigenous man some cross-country praise.

Donald Hanson, who is Mi'kmaq and a member of the Membertou First Nation on Cape Breton Island, is the creator of Lucid.

The software system was designed to support First Nation communities and organizations across the country. Its aim is to increase their transparency and accountability, thus enhancing their over-all effectiveness.

"It's transparent and easy to follow," Hanson said of the software system, adding that is why the name of the product is aptly called Lucid. "That's the whole idea of the system."

Partly because he created Lucid, Hanson was the finalist this year for Cando's Aboriginal Private Sector Business award.

Green Leaf Enterprises, a business located in the tiny Nova Scotia community of Wilmot, ended up winning the award in this category.

The winner and finalist were selected at the Cando Conference, which wrapped up on Oct. 25, in Fredericton, N.B.

Cando, the national organization that promotes Indigenous economic development, also honored winners and finalists in individual economic development officer and community of the year categories.

The Lucid system provides four key features that will assist users. They are budgeting, human resources, document management and community reporting.

Since launching Lucid in April of this year, Hanson has convinced communities or groups from six provinces - Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Quebec – as well as the Northwest Territories to sign up for his pilot project. He will offer the software for free for a three-month period in the hopes users will purchase the service afterwards.

"There is a lot of people looking to get this type of service," he said. "There is a need and I want to fill it."

Hanson had previously worked for more than a decade in federal civil service. His desire to create a system such as Lucid stemmed from the fact he often witnessed the impact created from a lack of a proper management framework.

Story continued on page 48.



Photo: Nelson Cloud

Donald Hanson is hoping First Nation communities across Canada start utilizing Lucid, the band management software system he created.

2017 Economic Developer of the Year Awards

Green Leaf Enterprises captures national Cando award

By Sam Laskaris
Cando Writer

Tammy Belanger admits she was not quite sure which direction her life would take when purchasing some property back in the summer of 2000.

The plan was to turn the property, located in the tiny Nova Scotia community of Wilmot, into a business named Green Leaf, which would include a flower shop, Christmas shop and a greenhouse.

Belanger, a member of the Glooscap First Nation, had some obvious concerns of whether the business would take off.

“The building was originally to be used as a shop but converted into a house if need be,” she said. “Originally we thought let’s see how we make out the first three years and we’ll go from there. After that, there was no looking back.”

Well, the business has been a huge hit. And the shop has been expanded twice and is now four times the size it was originally.

Green Leaf’s success has now also earned Belanger some national recognition. That’s because her operation captured Cando’s Aboriginal Private Sector Business award this year.

Belanger was presented with her award at the Cando Conference, which concluded on Oct. 25 in Fredericton, N.B.

Winners were also announced in the individual economic development officer and community categories at the conference.

Belanger also had another reason to celebrate at the conference. That’s because her hometown, Glooscap First Nation, was named the community of the year.

“We are one big family,” she said of those from her First Nation. “They won just before me so we were all so pleased.”

Belanger is also thrilled her own business has flourished despite the fact she has not poured money into advertising or marketing campaigns. A Facebook page for Green Leaf Enterprises is maintained.

“Our best advertising though is word of mouth,” she said. “They’re singing our praises which brings new people into the store.”

One of the Green Leaf Enterprises’ attractions is that it has the only Christmas shop in the Annapolis Valley. Various Christmas ornaments and decorated trees are available for purchase year-round.



Photo: Nelson Cloud

Tammy Belanger owner of Green Leaf Enterprises, located in the community of Wilmot in Nova Scotia, poses with her award as Cando’s national Indigenous Private Sector Business of the Year.

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2017 Economic Developer of the Year Awards

Rose Paul

Continued from page 40.

The highway project is expected to cost \$15.3 million. The First Nation will also receive more than \$2 million in compensation for the use of its land and to move some families and reconstruct homes that will be affected by the project.

Paul believes eventually adding businesses and homes to the First Nation will be a win-win for all.

“It’s good to see my community feel better and to know we can improve the life of all of our members,” she said.

Construction on the highway interchange began in August. It is expected to be completed by the fall or winter of 2018.

Though she played an instrumental role in seeing the project become a reality, Rose said she is not the only one who deserves recognition.

“Somebody had to do the heavy lifting,” she said. “But it was the community working together with the leadership and government that helped this project stay alive.”

Paul also said the fact the highway interchange is becoming a reality now has proven to be a big boost to members of the First Nation, who have visions of starting up their share of businesses.

“People are thinking about how they can be entrepreneurs now,” she said. “A lot of people are coming forward wanting to do their own businesses.”

By winning Cando’s EDO of the year award, Paul helped Nova Scotia register a sweep of the accolades up for grabs at the conference.

Green Leaf Enterprises, from the small Nova Scotian community of Wilmot, took home the Aboriginal Private Sector Business award while Glooscap First Nation, also based in the eastern Canadian province, was named community of the year.

Lynn Francis

Continued from page 41.

Rose Paul, from Nova Scotia’s Paqtnkek Mi’qmaq Nation, ended up winning the top EDO category.

Francis was still rather upbeat despite not winning her category.

“When I heard there were over 300 EDOs in Canada I thought it was quite the achievement to come in second,” she said.

Francis added attending the Cando Conference was a rather enlightening experience for her.

“It was good to hear what other EDOs are doing,” she said. “And by allowing them to share their best practices, we could see if we could get that for our communities.”

For Francis, this marked the first time she had attended Cando’s annual conference. She herself had received her Professional Aboriginal Economic Developer (PAED) certification through Cando back in 2007.

Francis and her management team maintained its quest for the Elsipogtog Commercial Development Centre despite numerous changes within not only their only council but provincial officials as well.

“Each government pushed it forward step by step,” she said.

The new businesses are employing about 50 Elsipogtog residents. And it has improved the mood of citizens from the First Nation.

“To see our community members working, and for them to have meaning and purpose, you can’t really explain that,” Francis said.

The numbers of locally employed individuals are obviously expected to rise when a third tenant is added to the community’s centre.

“We are still looking at different business cases,” Francis said. “We’re hoping to have something by the end of the year. We want it open as soon as possible.”

Glooscap

Continued from page 43.

While Peters was the one who made the presentation about the Glooscap First Nation at the Cando Conference, he said many others deserve credit as well.

“A lot of it goes back to our staff and our community,” he said. “We had community backing.”

A boost to the First Nation came in 2014 with the creation of Glooscap Ventures, the First Nation’s economic arm which oversees all of the community’s businesses.

Recent expansion on the First Nation includes a highway commercial development named Glooscap Landing. The first phase of this project, which is now open, features a gas bar and convenience store.

A Tim Hortons franchise will also be included in the mix in the near future.

Peters said creating Glooscap Ventures has also resulted in growth with existing businesses.

“They have also worked to expand our commercial fisheries through increased access to the lobster fishery along with a new state of the art vessel,” he said.

And the Glooscap First Nation is not resting on its laurels. Shortly after Glooscap Ventures was created, officials from the First Nation established a five-year action plan and a 10-year strategic plan in the hopes of growing further.

Peters said being named community of the year by Cando will not affect any of these plans.

“There’s still stuff in our strategies we need to focus on,” he said. “It’s just a matter of prioritizing it.”

Peters added those in his First Nation know they are on the right path, not only because of praise they are receiving but also becoming of the number of others who want to work together.

“It just shows you what we’re trying to do seems interesting,” he said. “More and more people want to partner with us.”

Carcross/Tagish

Continued from page 42.

Conference delegates then voted on the winners in all three categories offering Cando awards.

The community of the year award, however, ended up going to Nova Scotia’s Glooscap First Nation.

Cando awards were also presented in Aboriginal Private Sector Business and individual economic development officer categories.

Lepine was pleased his First Nation was selected as a finalist in its division during its quest for some national attention.

“It’s huge in itself,” he said of Carcross/Tagish’s runner-up placing. “You don’t always get recognition from your First Nation because expectations to succeed is there.”

Besides the fact the Carcross Commons is becoming an increasingly popular tourist attraction, another reason why travellers are venturing to the First Nation is because of its breathtaking trails built on Montana Mountain.

The mountain lies on Carcross/Tagish First Nation territory. About 40 kilometres of trails have been built or restored on the First Nation to be enjoyed by hikers, mountain bikers, skiers or snowshoers.

“We do market that quite heavily,” Lepine said. “I’ve had calls from as far away as Europe. And I get a lot of calls from people in B.C. because we’re fairly close.”

Tourism will continue to play an instrumental role in Carcross/Tagish’s future.

“Our First Nation has made a conscious effort not to get into mining,” Lepine said. “My predecessor came up with the idea of (promoting) tourism.”

Lepine added attending the Cando Conference was rather informative for him.

“What I learned is that there is a lot of diversity in corporations throughout Canada,” he said. “Some are in good positions and some are not.”

And where does he believe Carcross/Tagish is?

“I think we’re somewhere in the middle,” he said.

Green Leaf

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Staff at the business host classes covering topics such as floral design, wreath making and centrepiece making. It also provides training courses for First Nation communities across the province on how to grow their own vegetables.

“I’m really pleased with what we’ve done for the community and what we give back to the community,” Belanger said.

The national accolade from Cando will put even more of a spotlight on Green Leaf now.

“I think it’s fantastic,” Belanger said. “It’s very rewarding and it’s a huge compliment.”

This marked the first time Belanger had attended the annual Cando Conference. Green Leaf was one of the four businesses nominated for its category for a Cando award this year. And it was one of the two finalists in its grouping invited to the national conference.

“It was a huge honour to be recognized, even to be recognized in your own community,” she said.

Since she was one of the two finalists in her category, Belanger was required to make a 20-minute presentation on her business.

Conference delegates then voted on the winners in all categories.

“I spoke to a lot of great people and learned a lot at the conference,” she added.

And she was also glad she could extol the virtues of her own business.

“People could see how we’ve diversified and what our ambitions are,” she said.

And then capturing the top honour in her category was just icing on the cake for Belanger.

Brickyard Lucid

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“Communities I worked with in the past had the best intentions,” he said. “But I’ve seen the need for something like (Lucid) and I understand it.”

Hanson was also thrilled to be singled out for his venture by Cando.

“It was a real honor and a privilege just being nominated which sounds a bit cliché but true nonetheless,” he said. “It is very re-affirming to know that my peers see the value of the Lucid system enough to nominate me for this prestigious award from a nationally recognized organization such as Cando.”

And he was not the least bit upset he was named the finalist instead of being chosen the winner in his category.

“Coming second is still a great accomplishment considering it was in all of Canada,” he said. “Besides, when you consider the duration and milestones that the winner achieved I am proud to come in second.”

Hanson was also pleased he was able to showcase his project in front of a national audience.

“This gave me a unique opportunity to present my business to the key stakeholders in all regions and help increase the awareness of my product,” he said.

And the response he received was quite positive.

“I have been overwhelmed with the amount of positive feedback from the conference attendees with many of them saying how needed this type of system is for our communities and how many of them identify the potential synergies which can be developed as a national tool,” he said. “Many of the EDOs see my vision and how Lucid provides the basis for increased capacity for economic growth.”



Cando Staff say 'Thank you' to all the delegates, speakers and stakeholders at the 24th Annual Cando Conference in Fredericton, NB and hope to see you all back for the 25th Annual Cando Conference to be held in November 2018 at Enoch, Alberta. (Left to right) Alannah Price, Paul Macedo, Marissa Lawrence, Sviltana Konoval, Breezy Machin, Ray Wanuch, Danielle Stanley, Jessica Barry, Tanya Tourangeau.





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