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JAN./FEB. 2018 | Vol. 4 No. 5

magazine

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Cover image: Gingerbread house on display at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond, BC - site of the 2017 BC Links to Learning event. See more starting on page 12. Photo: Paul Macedo

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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WISHING YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Cando Board and Staff wish our members, stakeholders, supporters and friends a 2018 filled with happiness, good health and prosperity.

We at Cando are very excited for the coming year – not only are we going to continue with our successful initiatives (First Nations / Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative) and learning events (Links to Learning in Alberta, Saskatchewan and BC) but we are also planning to introduce several new initiatives and additional learning/training opportunities to meet the growing needs of our membership.

The latest event organized by Cando was the 2017 BC Links to Learning held in December in Richmond, BC. More than 250 people participated in the three day training and networking event. Dozens of workshops, led by experts in a range of economic and land development related disciplines, were delivered to meet the diverse needs of nearly 200 First Nations Economic Development Officers (EDOs) and Lands Management Officers (LMOs) from communities throughout BC. The goal of all Links to Learning events is to deliver a dynamic technical training forum for First Nation EDOs and LMOs to enhance their ability to undertake successful lands and economic development ventures. Successful land management and economic development initiatives are key to building healthy, thriving First Nations communities.

Cando will now begin work with its partners, National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, to make plans for the 2018 event. For full coverage, including photos, of this year's BC Links to Learning event please turn to page 14 of this issue.

As you know, 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 Fredericton, NB with the opportunity to explore the culture and traditions of Indigenous peoples of the Mi'kmaq and Wolastoq (Maliseet) traditional territories.

We hope all delegates were inspired by our presenters, panelists and keynote speakers who brought tremendous knowledge and passion from across the country and across the globe. The Fredericton conference will be a tough act to follow, but we have already started planning another fantastic conference for 2018!

Cando's 25th Annual National Conference and AGM will be held from October 22-25, 2018 at River Cree Resort in Enoch, Alberta (just west of Edmonton) on Treaty 8 Territory.

We hope to see you all at Enoch and/or one of the many regional events we have planned for 2018! See you soon!

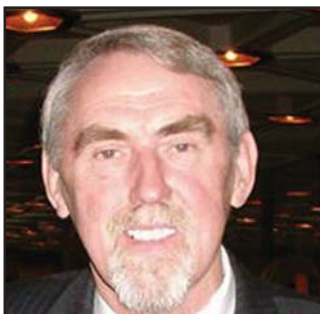
Congratulations to new Cando Directors

Cando is please to introducing three new Board Members: Natasha (Tasha) Brooks (National Student Director), Bob Cheetham (Director-Nunavut), and Stanley Barnaby (Director - New Brunswick and PEI). Each Director has been elected by Cando members from within the region they serve/represent - each will serve for a three-year term. Cando regional Board Member elections were held recently in December. Cando is very fortunate to have such amazing individuals join its Board. Please take time to read their biographies and see what tremendous skills and experience they will now contribute to Cando.

Congratulations Tasha, Bob and Stanley!



Tasha Brooks
New National
Student Director



Bob Cheetham
New Director
Nunavut



Stanley Barnaby
New Director
New Brunswick & P.E.I.

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Columbia

Shawna Morning Bull
Director - Alberta

Angel Ward
Director - Quebec

More board information:
www.edo.ca/about-cando/board

Tasha Brooks New National Student Director

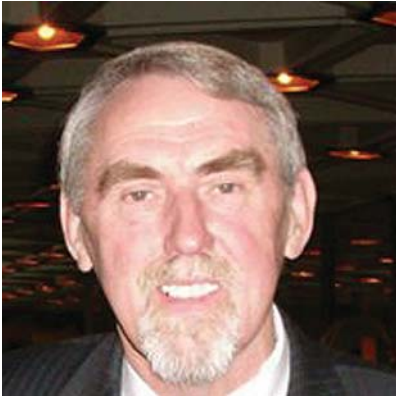
Natasha (Tasha) Brooks comes from the Cowichan Tribes in Duncan BC, she has recently graduated with an MBA/ MsCIB from Vancouver Island University (VIU), and also she holds a Bachelor of Business Administrations (VIU) and Technician Aboriginal Economic Developer Certificate (Cando). She is deeply committed to the betterment of Indigenous Education, her community, and lifelong learning.

Her journey through Post-Secondary has led her to France for 3 semesters, the UK for experiential learning and to conferences across Canada. There have been many challenges along the way; her passion for education, mentors, support network, and scholarships have helped her stay on the path to a Doctor of Business Administration. She is looking forward to her second semester, with a focus towards strategies Indigenous economic development officers use to engage entrepreneurship.

Tasha's aim is to inspire and empower people along their journey and progress towards strong unified nations. In her free time she tutors Indigenous post-secondary students, goes to the gym, and reads.



Bob Cheetham New Director Nunavut



Bob Cheetham is presently the Community Economic Development Officer (CEDO) for the Hamlet of Gjoa Haven in Nunavut. He was the Chief Executive Officer of The Granpreneurs Mentor Inc., a Canadian provider of global internet marketing, business coaching and community development advisory services. The personal author of several Community Development Action Plans, Mr. Cheetham retired as the Director of Economic Development for the Town of Smiths Falls and has had extensive experience in developing relationships in Central China and international investment in Europe and Central America. Mr. Cheetham is the former President of EcDev Associates Inc., an independent community development consulting company based in Delta, ON. Bob was contracted as the former Manager of Economic Development for the *United Counties of Leeds & Grenville* responsible for regional economic development and has also acted as Director of Economic Development and community development advisor to the *Smooth Rock Falls Economic Development Corporation*. Bob provided advisory services as Vice-President of Corporate Development for *Cenith Energy Corporation* and had responsibilities for corporate development and promotion of the *Future House Canada* project built in Beijing, China during the 2008 Olympic Games.

Mr. Cheetham has extensive experience in strategic planning, business diagnostics and community socio-economic development initiatives. With over 35 years in both the private and public sector, Mr. Cheetham has been a Community Development Economist and Coordinator of the Ministry of Northern Development & Mines, *Northern Development Councils* and Administrator of the *Northern Ontario Self-Help Business Network*.

As a private sector consultant, Mr. Cheetham has undertaken over eighty (80) SWOT Assessments of both not-for-profit and private sector companies. He has personally managed the implementation of over fifty (50) ISO 9000 and QS9000 Quality Assurance implementation projects, including the registration of the *Windsor Regional Cancer Center* and the *Windsor Laser Eye Institute*, both first's in their fields of expertise. Mr. Cheetham is the former Chairman of the North Clay Belt Agri Network (NCBAN) responsible for overseeing facilitation of development opportunities among twelve communities located between Kirkland Lake and Hearst, Ontario along the TransCanada Highway.

Mr. Cheetham has provided consulting services as principal business advisor to the Ontario office of the *Victorian Order of Nurses* and was Executive Coordinator to the *Kawartha Manufacturers' Association*, a consortium of fifty-five (55) private sector manufactures in the Peterborough/Lindsay area.

Mr. Cheetham maintains a well-established network of federal, provincial and municipal government representatives and he maintains a personal global contact list of over 5,400 first level contacts on his LinkedIn profile and over 7,400 followers on Facebook. Bob is well known for his strong interpersonal communication skills, collaborative approach, sound judgment, tact and diplomacy.

A student of Edinburgh, Scotland's Heriot-Watt University's *Master of Business Administration Program* and graduate of York University's Schulich School of Business, *Masters Certificate in Municipal Leadership*, Bob has completed certification as a Certified Master Coach Practitioner (CMCP) by the Certified Coaches Federation (CCF) and specialist certification in Fraud and Forensic Accounting from the Ontario Police College, Aylmer, Ontario. Mr. Cheetham is one of a select number of "*Business Network Advisors*" certified by the Canadian Chambers of Commerce and Industry Canada (1997) and he has had extensive experience in developing innovative solutions for fostering proactive business and community socio-economic development partnerships.

Stanley Barnaby New Director New Brunswick P.E.I.

Taking some specialty courses during his post-secondary education has paid off handsomely for Stanley Barnaby. The 28-year-old, who is from Quebec's Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation, attended the University of New Brunswick, earning his Bachelor of Business Administration degree. While at UNB, Barnaby also took the necessary courses to obtain his First Nations Business Administration Certificate. By fulfilling the requirements for this certificate Mr. Barnaby met the criteria to obtain his Technician Aboriginal Economic Developer (TAED) certificate through Cando, the national Indigenous organization which promotes economic development. Barnaby credits his Cando certification with helping him land some of the jobs he has held.

"It certainly helped me with some of the employment I've had in my career," he said. "It being on my resume really helped."

Mr. Barnaby is currently the Finance ... Operations Manager for the Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI), based in Fredericton, NB. JEDI promotes Indigenous economic and workplace development to 15 First Nation communities throughout New Brunswick. Barnaby started off as the finance intern at JEDI two years ago before he was promoted to his present job, one in which he oversees numerous ventures.

Besides community economic development, JEDI provides services including entrepreneurship, apprenticeship and employment counselling to Indigenous individuals. Before joining JEDI, Barnaby held a pair of jobs in his home community. He was a financial analyst in commercial fisheries, working for the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government for one summer. And he gained finance experience working for the Mi'gmawei Mawioimi Secretariat, also in Listuguj. Barnaby continues to speak highly of Cando.

Mr. Barnaby's involvement with Cando continues to expand. He's the chair of Cando's National Youth Summit Conference. And he was also a member of Cando's national conference committee. JEDI was co-host of the Cando Conference along with the St. Mary's First Nation. The Conference was held in the fall of 2017 in Fredericton.

Mr. Barnaby is also a strong believer in giving back. He recently completed a mentorship through the Cape Breton University in-business program. Through this venture he assisted Indigenous youth from across Atlantic Canada to complete assignments covering topics such as finance, accounting and marketing.



Cando Conference Fredericton



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 Fredericton



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.

CANDO 25TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE & AGM

A National Platform Exclusively Focused on Excellence in Indigenous Economic Development

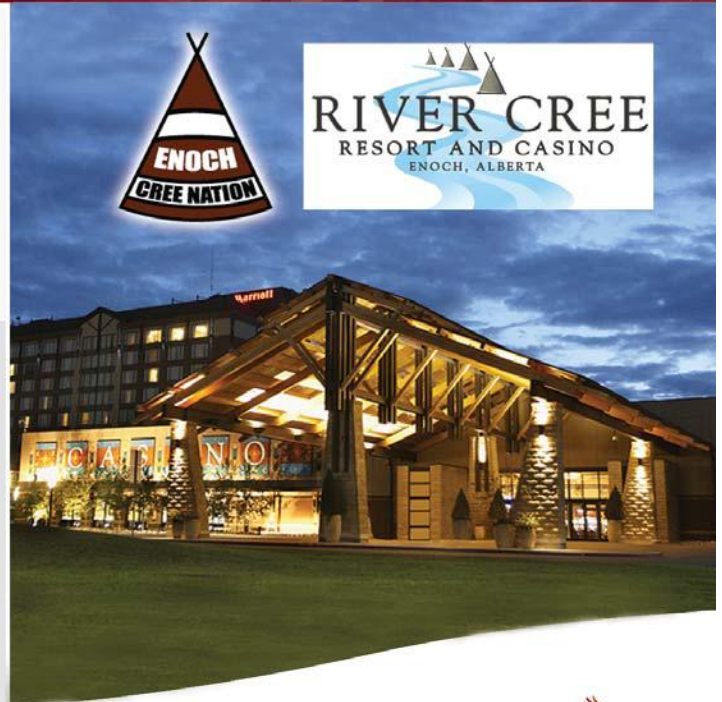
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Silver Level



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2017 Cando Conference Stakeholders...

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Friend Level



Joint Economic Development Initiative

In-Kind Level



Cando Conference Fredericton



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 Fredericton



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)

BC Links-to-Learning Welcome



Photos: Paul Macedo

Robert Louie, business leader and former chief of Westbank First Nation delivers his keynote at BC Links to Learning on December 13th. More than 200 delegates from First Nations communities throughout British Columbia attended the three-day learning and networking event.

The 2017 BC Links to Learning was held at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond, B.C. from December 12-14th.

More than 200 Land Managers and Economic Development Officers from throughout British Columbia gathered for three days of workshops led by experts in a range of economic and land development related disciplines, and

other opportunities for dialogue and networking. Successful land management and economic development initiatives are key to building healthy, thriving First Nations communities.□

Links to Learning is an annual technical training forum which provide a range of learning opportunities for First Nations Economic Development Officers and Lands Management Officers.

The goal of Links to Learning is to deliver a dynamic technical training forum for First Nation Economic Development Officers and Lands Management Officers to enhance their ability to undertake successful lands and economic development ventures. The event focuses on knowledge sharing and skills enhancement among practitioners at the community level.



BC Links to Learning is presented by Cando, the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

BC Links-to-Learning Welcome



Keith Matthew, President of Cando, welcomes the delegates to BC Links to Learning.



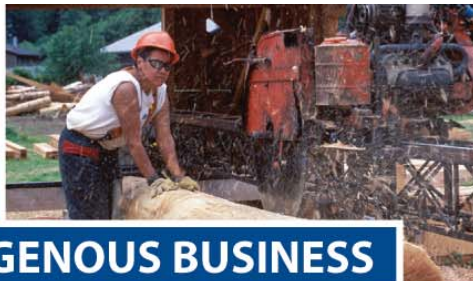
Paul Donald, President of All Nations Trust Company, served as MC during the event.



Catherine Lappe, Regional Director General of INAC – BC Region, welcomes the delegates.

Photos: Paul Macedo

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BC Links-to-Learning Special Guests

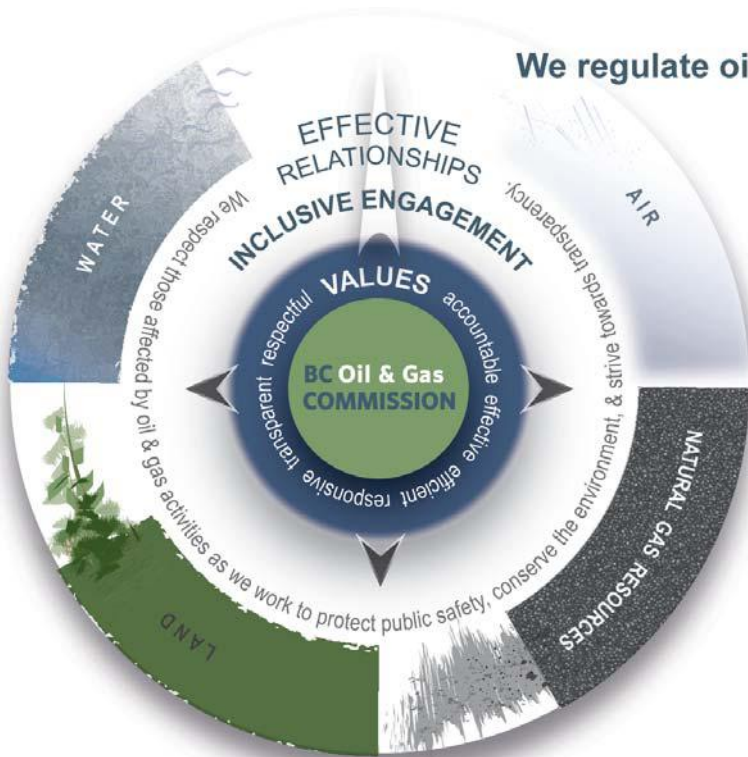


Elder Audrey Rivers opened the Links to Learning event with a prayer for the delegates and presenters.



Robert Louie, respected business leader was a keynote speaker and also was on hand for one on one consultations with delegates.

Photos: Paul Macedo



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BC Links-to-Learning Delegates



Photo: Paul Macedo

Delegates at the 2017 BC Links to Learning enjoy a lunch break between workshops and panel sessions. This year's event was a tremendous success with increased attendance and participation in the workshops and networking sessions.

520 Chief Eli LaRue Way, Kamloops, BC



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BC Links-to-Learning Workshops



(Above) Marissa Lawrence (left) and Tanya Tourangeau delivered a workshop showcasing the First Nations/Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI).



(Left) Numerous First Nation communities representative were interested in learning more about the CEDI process of working together with neighbouring municipalities for mutually beneficial economic development initiatives.



(Above) Wayne Garnons-Williams delivers a workshop on Inter-Tribal Trade opportunities between Canada and the USA.

(Above) Tyrone Joseph with All Nations Development Corporation co-presenting a workshop on Project Financing.

BC Links-to-Learning Trade Show



The BC Links to Learning Trade Show showcased a variety of businesses and organizations committed to assisting communities identify, accelerate and/or maintain their economic development opportunities.

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First Nation – Municipal CEDI Lessons Learned



Photo: Paul Macedo

Marissa Lawrence (left) and Tanya Tourangeau delivered an interactive workshop showcasing the First Nations - Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) at BC Links to Learning event held in December in Richmond, B.C.

By Marissa Lawrence and Tanya Tourangeau CEDI team members

Happy New Year from the CEDI team! What a fabulous year 2017 turned out to be for many First Nation – Municipal Community Economic Development Initiatives (CEDI). Our CEDI partners worked very hard throughout the year building stronger relationships and developing plans for joint community economic development (CED). Together, they embarked on a journey of sharing, understanding and learning with and from one another, providing our CEDI team with

valuable lessons learned and a deeper understanding of best practices that we would like to share with you.

The Importance of Committed Working Groups and Terms of Reference

Consistency and commitment continue to be two foundational aspects of resilient and effective First Nation – Municipal partnerships. It is key for both communities to prioritize monthly face-to-face working group meetings, ensuring that there is a commitment from elected officials and staff representatives. The diverse representation is crucial



Photo: Paul Macedo

A workshop participant asks a question of Marissa Lawrence (right) concerning the First Nations - Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) at BC Links to Learning event.

to a long-lasting partnership, as it allows for a diversity of perspectives, and ultimately increases understanding and learning at various levels of the partnership. Together, these key components contribute to the partnership's capacity to overcome community challenges, to capitalize on opportunities, and to move forward on joint initiatives.

In addition, many CEDI partnerships have found success in working group *Terms of Reference* (TOR), co-designed and formally adopted by way of council resolutions, assisting to stabilize the partnership through inevitable political turnover.

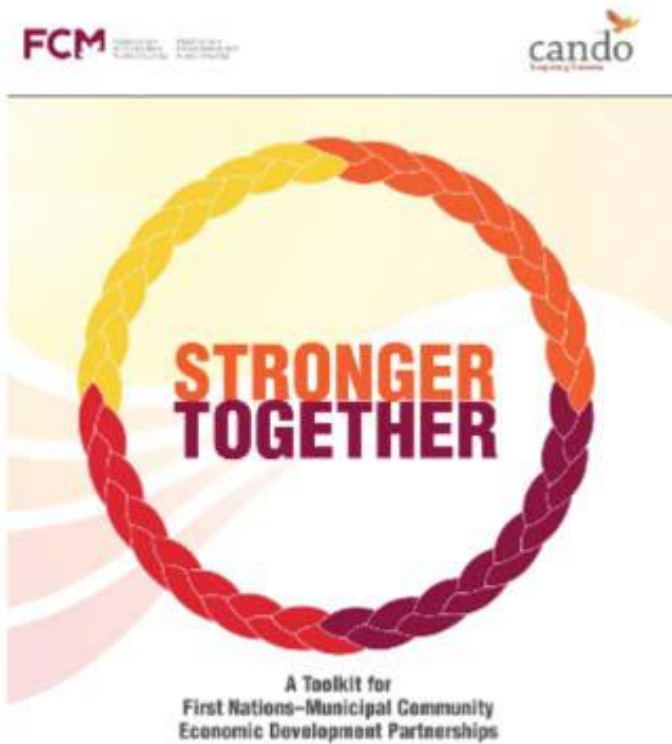
Working with a Tribal Council

All CEDI partnerships work to understand each other's governance model and jurisdiction; however, this has proven to be even more crucial when working with a Tribal Council that represents several member First Nations. The balance within this type of partnership is to ensure that the Tribal Council and Municipality select joint CED initiatives that respect the sovereignty of the member First Nations and address the Tribal Council mandate. This process also allows the Municipality to learn more about joint CED opportunities with individual Nations, therefore expanding the likelihood of additional community to community partnerships.

Working with Economic Development Corporations and Organizations

Economic development corporations/organizations provide key strengths to many CEDI partnerships; for one, they bring additional capacity to the process, and two, they are highly motivated to generate economic results through the partnership. Many CEDI partnerships have learned that while sometimes difficult to do, it is incredibly important to balance the corporations' and organizations' priorities, with the need to establish a foundational relationship between First Nation and Municipal political leadership. These key priorities often move at different speeds, so it is therefore necessary to be realistic about the process and timeline based on the shared goal of long-term First Nation – Municipal partnership.

We look forward to applying these lessons learned and best practices, among many others, to Phase II CEDI partnerships that will be on-boarded April 2018. We will continue to learn with our partners to grow the *Stronger Together* approach to building lasting, resilient partnerships between neighbours, with the overall goal of developing joint CED allowing for shared prosperity for all partner communities. Throughout 2018, we will continue to highlight the progress and success of the CEDI partnerships.



Sound business plans result in self-confidence

By Shari Narine
Cando Contributor



Deb Arnott

Photo: Supplied

Creativity, says Deb Arnott, is what she gives and gets back from her Indigenous-run small business clients.

“I really appreciate the creativity of the clients. They’ve taught me a lot,” said Arnott, who serves as general manager for Community Futures Sun Country, out of Ashcroft, B.C. “At the beginning, people are being very careful, especially if they’re getting a loan. But what I do find is that over time they become more creative and think, ‘Maybe I can do this,’ because it’s built their self-confidence.”

And that self-confidence comes from a realistic business plan, which Community Futures helps develop because many first-time business operators haven’t factored everything into their decision-making process.

“What they might find, they’re looking at doing a full time business and once we develop a business plan they might go, ‘You know what, maybe I should be doing this part time, just until my life changes and the kids get a little bit older,’” said Arnott. “That’s what I love about it. We can mould it to fit their lifestyle.”

Community Futures Sun Country has been working with small businesses for 30 years. Aboriginal clientele now accounts for about 20 per cent of the workload.

“I see a lot of younger Indigenous women looking at opportunities to do their business. Some of them are in their 30’s and they want to still be home to raise their kids and take care of their families still so it kind of works for their lifestyle right now,” said Arnott.

Many such small businesses start off on band land and, depending on the services or product they’re marketing, they soon recognize that their reach has to be broader in order for them to be profitable.

Business counselling is an important service, says Arnott.

“We need to know if it’s going to be feasible for them,” she said.

Community Futures Sun Country also provides small business loans.

“And for many of our Indigenous clients, they don’t have all the assets some would have in the rest of the community. So as Community Futures, we definitely look at the high risk, we look at the situation, and we lend on character. That’s really important to us,” said Arnott.

Community Futures Sun Country also provides ongoing monthly mentorship.

Success rate is high for Community Futures’ Indigenous small business owners, Arnott notes, with about 75 per cent still in business.

At the beginning, people are being very careful, especially if they’re getting a loan. But what I do find is that over time they become more creative and think, ‘Maybe I can do this,’ because it’s built their self-confidence.

Share Your Story

Cando Connect

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January/February 2018

Business courses customized for Indigenous entrepreneurs

By Shari Narine
Cando Contributor

Loa Fridfinnson, co-founder of Activ8 Education & Training, is passionate about tapping the potential of Indigenous youth.

Funding from the B.C. government this past summer allowed her to offer a business confidence building workshop for Indigenous youth, the fastest growing population in Canada, and showed her that not only are youth interested in business, but they are also capable.

So now, Activ8 Education is rolling out a Youth Career, Entrepreneurial & Confidence Building Program, which will empower youth to better understand themselves and their thinking habits, assess what they are passionate about and good at, learn about personal money management, business and the economy, and take steps in their career paths.

“We will be introducing the youth program to (First) Nations directly and are hoping to get sponsored by a bank or corporation who wants to support the health, prosperity and vitality of Canada’s Indigenous communities,” said Fridfinnson, who notes that 50 per

cent of Indigenous youth are under the age of 28.

But working with youth isn’t the only item on Activ8’s agenda.

Fridfinnson, who has run a marketing agency for 17 years, began working with First Nations five years ago, after being asked by Geena Jackson, consultant, co-facilitator and small business officer at the Squamish Nation, to create and teach a course in social media.

Along with Squamish, Activ8 is now developing entrepreneurs and growing small businesses within the communities of Musqueam, Kwitwetlem, Tsleil-Waututh and, most recently, Sto:lo Nations.

“That I know of, we are the only educator providing entrepreneurial confidence, marketing, sales and digital media training customized for the Indigenous small business market,” said Fridfinnson.

Activ8’s courses are customized for First Nations and offered directly in those communities.

“It’s on Nation land so when students and participants come into the class, they’re already feeling comfortable because it’s their centre they’re used to going to,” said Fridfinnson.

To help recruit potential students, Fridfinnson is working on a train-the-trainer program, which will help program managers on First Nation’s to more effectively market the program and increase enrollment.

Activ8 also provides resources for funding and grants, as well as a resource to help write grants. Fridfinnson is also looking to get funding that will allow her to offer her courses on line.

“It’s about First Nation members turning their passions into a commercialized venture,” she said.



Photo: Supplied

Activ8 workshop held at Sto:lo Nation.

Share Your Story

January/February 2018

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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.

“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

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.

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.

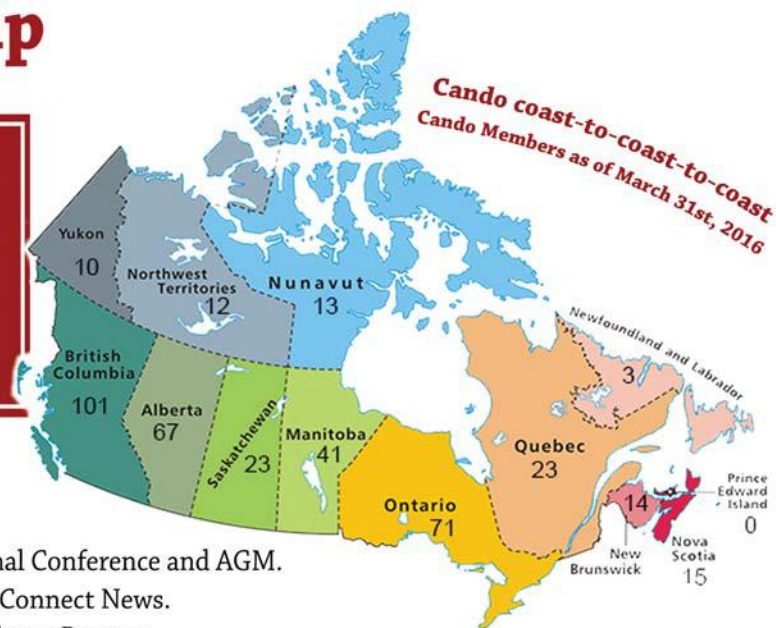
What lies ahead for Peter-Paul is exciting and the accounting program she is presently enrolled in - along with her NIEEF scholarship - will help her build that future. Her two goals are to own and operate a tea shop and to buy her first home.

“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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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

Inspiring Success - NIEEF Scholarship Recipient Profiles

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 Kinooomaage 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!**

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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?



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