

cando

CONNECT

JULY/AUGUST 2017 | Vol. 4 No. 2

magazine

→ *Moving Indigenous Economies Forward*

**Get
Certified!**

**Shake
On It!**

**Inspiring
Success
Scholarship
Profiles**

**Inter-tribal
Trade
Opportunities**



Shake On It! presented by CANDO & the Aboriginal Business Match (ABM)



What

Two economic development powerhouses, one hyper-productive business event: **Shake On It!** is a powerful resource to build economic development capacity and get real deals done all in one action-packed week during the annual Cando Conference.

Shake On It! attendees have the opportunity to take their business development to the next level from that first handshake at CANDO's networking and capacity building opportunities to that last handshake when closing a business deal on the ABM tradeshow floor.

Prior to attending, delegates create up to 31 pre-schedule appointments to identify potential joint-venture or partnership opportunities. Delegates can then use breakthrough workshops, engaging plenaries and panel discussions to hone skills and advance their career goals, before bringing that expertise for focused and business-ready conversations at their appointments.

Based on the belief that building effective business relationships between Aboriginal communities, their non-Aboriginal neighbours and the private sector is imperative to the future of Canada's economy, and to society as a whole. **Shake On It!** and its attendees become catalysts to create a new dawn in Indigenous economies.

"Cando has been instrumental in facilitating partnerships in the Aboriginal market," says Cando's Executive Director, Ray Wanuch. "Expanding the Cando conference to produce Shake On It! in partnership with ABM means increasing the potential, not just for professional development, but for real deals that translate to community growth. New and exciting partnerships, just like Cando and ABM, are just the beginning of a new dawn in Indigenous economies."

When

Shake On It!

October 22 – 27, 2017

Wolastoqey Territory,

Fredericton, NB

Fredericton Convention Centre

CANDO AGM

October 22 – 25, 2016

Wolastoqey Territory,

Fredericton, NB

Fredericton Convention Centre

ABM Atlantic

October 25 – 27, 2017

Wolastoqey Territory,

Fredericton, NB

Fredericton Convention Centre

cando

CONNECT JULY/AUGUST 2017 | Vol. 4 No. 2 magazine



8



12



18

Cover image:
An intense stare from an American Bald Eagle being rehabilitated from injury at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Eagle Aviary in Oklahoma.
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:
e: paul.macedo@edo.ca
t: 1-800-463-9300 ext 236
p: 780-990-0303 ext 236
f: 780-429-7487

Conference Co-host Profile St. Mary's First Nation page 04

Promoting Inter-tribal Trade:

International Inter-tribal Trade Organization page 08

International Free Trade Zone Opportunities page 10

Inpiring Success: NIEEF Profile Quinn Meawasige page 12

Inpiring Success: NIEEF Profile Natasha Brooks page 14

Inpiring Success: NIEEF Profile Kluane Adamek page 15

Get Certified: Jason Rasevych page 18

Get Certified: Steven Patterson page 19

Inspiring Success: St. Mary's First Nation



St. Mary's has the largest entertainment complex in Atlantic Canada.

Photo: supplied

St. Mary's First Nation employs 450 people through its various businesses in the community, making it one of Fredericton's largest employers.

**By Sam Laskaris
Cando Writer**

A major announcement is expected to be made at the Cando Conference which will be held this fall in Fredericton.

Officials from the St. Mary's First Nation, which is located within the city limits of the New Brunswick capital, are hoping to reveal their plans for a massive project in their community at the conference, held in conjunction with the organization's annual general meeting.

The conference and AGM, which run Oct. 23-26, will be co-hosted by the St. Mary's First Nation and the Fredericton-based Joint Economic Development Initiative.

Allan Polchies Jr., who has worked as a community planner for St. Mary's for the

past eight years, said the project, which in all likelihood will be revealed in October, is expected to employ about 100 people.

"I can't say too much more right now," said Polchies Jr., who has also been a member of the St. Mary's band council for the past decade. "We're working on finding a partner because it's a multi-million dollar venture."

The St. Mary's First Nation already has its share of successful business stories.

The First Nation operates the St. Mary's Entertainment Centre, which is the largest bingo facility in Atlantic Canada. The 1,300-seat venue was built 21 years ago.

Poker tables and video lottery terminals were added 15 years ago. And now the

Cando Conference Co-host Profile

Cando Connect

4

July/August 2017

centre, which is open daily, attracts huge crowds, including bus groups from across New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and even the state of Maine.

The First Nation also owns a complex featuring a retail sales operation. Businesses at this facility include a supermarket, gas bar, smoke shop and the Wolastoq Wharf, a fine dining seafood establishment, which has been selected as the top restaurant in Fredericton by TripAdvisor for the past three years.

“The key thing about our operations is everything is band owned and operated,” said Polchies Jr.

In total, the St. Mary’s First Nation currently employs 450 people through its various businesses in the community, making it one of Fredericton’s largest employers.

“We like to think of Fredericton as a suburb of St. Mary’s,” said Polchies Jr., adding St. Mary’s is one of two First Nations in Atlantic Canada that is located in an urban location, entirely within a city limits.

Polchies added being in an urban environment, however, has also provided some challenges for the First Nation.

“We have to compete with the big box stores that are developing around ourselves,” he said.

Yet St. Mary’s, which has about 1,850 members, continues to grow and prosper.

“We’re also a big supporter for individual entrepreneurs in the community,” said Polchies Jr.

For example, in the past five years 60 houses have been built on the First Nation. Only local workers have been hired to complete these projects.

“We reinvest everything into our people because at the end of the day we want people to recycle (their money) back into the community,” he said.



St. Mary’s First Nation old reserve grounds.

Photo: supplied

Cando Conference Co-host Profile

July/August 2017

5

edo.ca



Inspiring Success: Joint Economic Development Initiative

The Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI) is an organization that supports Indigenous participation in New Brunswick's economy.

JEDI began in 1995 as a forum that brought together leaders of First Nations communities and organizations in New Brunswick with leaders from the Government of Canada, the Government of New Brunswick and New Brunswick's private sector. Since 1995, JEDI has been active on its mandate and now operates as a successful not-for-profit organization that boasts many successes in Indigenous economic and workforce development.

JEDI is funded by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), the New Brunswick Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat (AAS), Employment, Workforce Development and Labour (EWDL), and the New Brunswick Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour (DPETL). In addition to government funding, JEDI also receives support from the private sector, as well as, Indigenous communities and organizations. JEDI is governed by a JEDI Inc. Board of Directors consisting of Indigenous, private sector and funding partners.

Programs under the management of JEDI include: the JEDI Aboriginal Development Fund (JADF), the Provincial Aboriginal Employment Coordinator Partnership, the Aboriginal Adult Learning and Apprenticeship Coordinator



Partnership, the Labour Market Initiative Program, the Indigenous Digital Literacy Program, as well as, youth initiatives such as the Indigenous Internship Program (IIP) and the JEDI/Brun-Way Bursary Program.

Cando Conference Co-host Profile



Projects include the New Brunswick Aboriginal Shipbuilding Engagement Strategy, the New Brunswick Aboriginal Information Communications Technology Project and the New Brunswick Aboriginal Mining, Energy, and Trades Project.

CANDO 24TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE & AGM

A National Platform Exclusively Focused on Excellence in Indigenous Economic Development

A New Dawn In Indigenous Economies

October 22 – 25, 2017

Fredericton Convention Centre • Fredericton, NB

Co hosted by: **St. Mary's First Nation**
and **Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI)**

- Professional Development Workshops
- Economic Developer of the Year Awards
- Trade Show & Artisan Show & Sale
- 13th Annual National Youth Panel
- Women in Business Panel
- Community Cultural Tours
- Keynote Presentations
- President's Reception, Dinner & Dance

Please visit the Cando website to register and for more information





Photo: supplied

The International Inter-tribal Trade and Investment Organization held its trade mission and conference at the University of Oklahoma in June 2017.

Inter-tribal trade provides tribal, economic sovereignty

By Shari Narine
Cando Writer

Wayne Garnons-Williams is excited about the opportunities cross country inter-tribal trade offers for Canadian First Nations and American Tribes.

“I’m passionate about this because I believe tribal sovereignty really means economic sovereignty and the faster we can get First Nations to be as economically self-dependent as possible the more we can have that sovereignty within Canada and be able to say, ‘Federal government, thanks, but no thanks. We appreciate the offer of the money but we don’t want to go that way. We’d rather take our revenue and go this way,’” he said.

President of the International Inter-tribal Trade and Investment Organization headquartered in Ottawa, Garnons-Williams holds that the political climate is right for that kind of movement in Canada. Trudeau’s mandate letters to his Cabinet ministers made it clear that there was no priority more important than the nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous peoples. One of the rights that the federal government is seriously examining, says Garnons-Williams, is the right to trade.

Domestic trade works hand-in-hand with inter-tribal trade, he says.

“But to get that done, the building blocks of trade have to be there,” said Garnons-Williams, who notes that

Inter-Tribal Trade Opportunities for First Nations

First Nations are on both ends of the spectrum when it comes to economic development.

There is no greater building block, he says, than education, training and certification which organizations like the International Inter-tribal Trade and Investment Organization, Cando and the Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business can undertake to ensure First Nations have “the cutting edge capacity to know how to run their economic corporations.”

For First Nations to be successful, they must develop their economic corporations at arms-length from the band council.

“Chief and council should not be involved in every day operations and that’s still something that needs to be taught and prodded,” said Garnons-Williams.

But it’s catching on as newly and highly educated young people return to their reserves with business savvy. “They understand what good, sound, fiscal management is for a healthy, prosperous First Nation.”

After a First Nation corporation has successfully generated revenue for at least five years, then it can look at taking it to the next level: inter-tribal trade, which can mean either across provincial borders or into the United States.

“If you’re ready for a new market, let’s look at getting together with US Tribes,” said Garnons-Williams. He points out that US Tribes, as a whole, are ahead of Canadian First Nations economically because the tribes have been working with the US federal government for one hundred years longer than the First Nations in this country.



Photo: supplied

Wayne Garnons-Williams, President of IITIO with Chairman John Barrett of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation meet in Oklahoma.

The next step in inter-tribal trade is to turn to academic leaders, an aspect that IITIO embraces.

“We gather together the world’s leading Indigenous economic leaders in the same room to look at these issues... what is the history of this, what does the law currently say out there in Canada, the United States and the provinces, and how can we best leverage this to make it go forward?” said Garnons-Williams.

These economic experts, he says, will discuss the issues, write research papers, and provide the solutions and options needed to move forward.

More: www.edo.ca/news

**US Tribes,
as a whole,
are ahead of First
Nations economically
because the tribes
have been working
with the US federal
government for one
hundred years longer
than the First Nations**



Photo: Paul Macedo

Jim Collard, director of planning and economic development with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, in Oklahoma conducts a tour of the Iron Horse industrial park that runs along the Union Pacific rail line

CPN foreign- trade zone ready for long term contracts

**By Shari Narine
Cando Writer**

Jim Collard, director of planning and economic development with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, in Oklahoma, is excited about the possibilities a foreign-trade zone offers for his tribe.

“It is a unique way for tribes to engage in trade and so many of the tribes have been international traders for millennium. So really, international trade hasn’t been a new thing for tribes, but really it hasn’t been in the fore-thinking for the last few generations and this is an opportunity to go back to that lineage,” said Collard, who has his doctorate in political economy.

A company located within a specially designated foreign-trade zone (also

known as a free-trade zone) can bring in raw product, transform that product to create something new, and then ship it out of the country with no tariffs attached. However, if the final product remains within the United States, the tariff is assessed on either the final product or all the combined parts, whichever is lower.

“It’s a huge cost savings,” said Collard.

That was only one incentive that spurred Collard to push for FTZ designation for the Iron Horse industrial park, which is located on Native American trust land in Oklahoma. The industrial park, which measures 400 acres and which can be expanded, runs along the Union Pacific rail line, which links it to the Port of Houston and makes it an ideal spot for companies.

Inter-Tribal Trade Opportunities for First Nations



Photos: Paul Macedo

Jim Collard, director of planning and economic development with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

“Just our distribution point is gigantic because we’re in the centre of the country essentially,” said Collard.

Now that the Iron Horse industrial park is site-ready, Collard has begun marketing it to other countries and industries.

“I really want to do business with Canada, our closest ally. I really want to do business with First Nations up there,” he said. “We’d be a wonderful distribution point for all First Nations products into the U.S.”

But Collard’s marketing plan stretches further than North America. He is also targeting France and the Commonwealth, “primarily close allies that work within the same judicial system” as the U.S. and Canada.

Iron Horse industrial park offers long term leases as high as three 25-year

consecutive terms, which provide companies with stability and predictability. As well, the FTZ simplifies a complicated regulatory regimen.

“Foreign-trade zones have been around for 80 years so there’s no legal questions out there. There’s stability, speed and it’s easier to understand,” said Collard.

Attractive industries for CPN are renewable energy companies or companies that build equipment that is environmentally sustainable.

“We, as a tribe, of course, have a strong emphasis on environmental sustainability,” said Collard.

The FTZ also allows CPN to be both landlords and equity partners in companies, if the companies are interested.

“A foreign-trade zone gives us a unique identifier. There aren’t a whole lot of them and very few in Indian Country so that helps us stand apart from all the other industrial parks,” said Collard.

The potential is also there, he adds, for direct links between Iron Horse industrial park and any free-trade zones that may exist on First Nations in Canada.

“It would be simple. We could move trade fast that way. It would be slick,” said Collard.

And it would be one more way for First Nations and Tribes to generate their own income.

“Economic development is about bringing dollars from outside inside and keeping the dollars generated inside from escaping too much,” said Collard. “It’s an exercise in sovereignty to engage in trade.”

More: www.edo.ca/news



What used to be the end of the Union Pacific Rail line is now the beginning of International trade opportunities at Iron Horse Industrial Park in Oklahoma

Inter-Tribal Trade Opportunities for First Nations

Life experience taught Meawasige he needed to go to university



Quinn Meawasige

Photo: Supplied

**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.**

**By Shari Narine
Cando Writer**

Quinn Meawasige comes late to formal education and because of that he knows he wants to be at Algoma University and studying community economic and social development.

But Meawasige would not be able to pursue his career goals if it weren't for the \$2,000 scholarship he received through the National Indigenous Economic Education Foundation for the 2016-2017 school year.

Since he didn't enroll in post-secondary education right out of high school, his application for funding from his First Nation of Serpent River wasn't high on

the priority list and he didn't receive any band money. 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."

It's been a journey and a process, admits Meawasige.

Disenchanted with what he saw as a lack of attention to youth-related issues, Meawasige began attending chief and council meetings to advocate for youth and the value of culture. It was his constant presence in the council chamber that drew the attention of others and soon he was asked to run for council. He did and he was elected at 18 years of age, the youngest council member ever.

Inspiring Success - NIEEF Scholarship Recipient Profiles

“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.”

He came to understand he needed to pursue his education in order to be able to develop the capacity and knowledge required to spearhead and develop the programs he wanted.

He decided to enroll at Algoma University, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

“It’s one of the only undergrad degrees of its kind in Canada with a specific community, economic and social

development focus,” he said.

Half way through the four year program now, 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.

Because Algoma University is accredited with Cando, Meawasige qualifies as a technician level economic developer with Cando. But he’s also pursuing Anishinaabe language through the Shingwauk Kinoomaage 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.

More: www.edo.ca/nieef-scholarships

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 stories to a National audience.

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

Excellence in Indigenous Economic Development | www.edo.ca | 1.800.463.9300


cando
Inspiring Success

Scholarship allowed Brooks to follow passion with internship

It really helps students just to be able to focus completely on school and not have that cloud of worry over their head while they're trying to study and focus. It was really integral to my success



Natasha Brooks

Photo: Supplied

**By Shari Narine
Cando Writer**

If it weren't for the \$2,000 National Indigenous Economic Education Foundation scholarship Tasha Brooks received in fall 2016, her internship would not have gone as well as it did.

"The scholarship was extremely useful because as part of my study I had to complete an internship and it was really important for me to complete one that was in my career goals and that meant taking an internship that was unpaid," said Brooks, who just graduated with her master degree in business administration from Vancouver Island University. "It was just critical to my survival during my internship period."

Her initial internship was doing a proposal surrounding an aquaponics facility. While she found it interesting, it wasn't her passion.

Instead an unpaid internship at the Cowichan Campus of VIU was what she really wanted to do. Although she had received funding from her band for her

education and had received student loans, that money wasn't enough for her to swing the unpaid internship. The scholarship dollars allowed her to do it.

The internship involved conducting research surrounding the Indigenization of a non-Indigenous institution at Vancouver Island University, Cowichan Campus.

"Cowichan Campus couldn't pay, but could offer something relevant to my background and education," she said.

The internship directly impacted Cowichan Tribes, the community Brooks is from. "I loved every day of my internship, I learned about my culture, and feel like I truly made a difference," she said.

Scholarships like this one, says Brooks, are vital to most students.

"It really helps students just to be able to focus completely on school and not have that cloud of worry over their head while they're trying to study and focus. It was really integral to my success," she said.

After getting her four-year bachelor in business degree from VIU, Brooks spent four years working with Cowichan Tribes before returning to school to earn her master degree in one and a half years. Now she plans to start her doctorate in business administration, focusing on social impact management at Walden University this fall. That will be at least another four years of higher education.

Brooks plans to become a professor in the field of business and to continue to contribute to her community.

She would like to do research "to get a basic understanding of what different educational effects can have on our community."

And Brooks has at least one long term goal.

"I'm also interested in politics so potentially, at some point, running for council for my local community," she said.

More: www.edo.ca/nieef-scholarships

Inspiring Success - NIEEF Scholarship Recipient Profiles

Adamek focused on developing youth as leaders

By Shari Narine
Cando Writer

Kluane Adamek wants to build young leaders.

She plans to use what she's learned to support community building in the north as she works toward her master degree in business administration at Simon Fraser University.

"Supporting community building through inspiration and innovation is how I feel I can contribute and working with young emerging leaders, as well," said Adamek, who lives in Whitehorse.

The \$2,000 she received through Cando's National Indigenous Economic Education Foundation scholarship fall 2016 made that possible.

"That's why the scholarship was helpful for me. I travel down to Vancouver usually about every six weeks to do my course work and then I come back to Whitehorse and I do my assignments from here," she said. "I'm really grateful to have had the scholarship. It really helped me out this year."

The NIEEF scholarship was one of three scholarships Adamek received. The

external funding was necessary as she wasn't full funded by her band, the Kluane First Nation, of the Southern Tutchone and Tlingit.

She has just completed her first year of the two-and-a-half year long program.

Working with youth in the Yukon is a task that Adamek already has plenty of experience with. She founded Our Voices, which is a northern Indigenous emerging leaders organization, and still volunteers there. She was a fellow with the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation, where her research focused on youth engagement. She also instructs a course on leadership, land claims and self-government at the Yukon College.

"I'm still really actively involved with young people in the north," she said.

Along with her school work and volunteerism, Adamek works full time. She is an advisor to Pauline Frost, minister of health, environment and housing. Adamek also worked as an advisor to former Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo.

"I would like to continue to support the community building in the north, whether that be through building young leaders to economic develop to community infrastructure. I don't really see myself having a specific role," she said.

Adamek does, however, think that down the road she may get involved in politics, but right now she isn't willing to take on that pressure.

"I'm good with being kind of on the periphery and being strategic and providing advice and guidance as needed," she said.

Adamek says culture is important to her. She is part of a traditional dance group that has performed both nationally and internationally. She also tries to get out on the land as much as possible, even though Whitehorse is her home right now.

More: www.edo.ca/nieef-scholarships



Kluane Adamek

Photo: Supplied

I would like to continue to support the community building in the north, whether that be through building young leaders to economic develop to community infrastructure.

Inspiring Success - NIEEF Scholarship Recipient Profiles

July/August 2017

15

edo.ca

SASKATCHEWAN LINKS TO LEARNING



SASKATCHEWAN LINKS TO LEARNING

The next Saskatchewan Links to Learning event is on **September 26-28, 2017** at the **Radisson Hotel Saskatoon**.

This is the second year for the Saskatchewan Links to Learning Symposium! The goal of the Saskatchewan Links to Learning event is to deliver a dynamic technical training forum for First Nation Economic Development Officers and Land Managers 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. This forum delivers a series of workshops, led by experts in a range of economic and land development related disciplines, and offer opportunities for dialogue and networking.

To register please contact:

Danielle Lightning, Special Projects Coordinator, Cando
780-990-0303 ext. 229 or Danielle.Lightning@edo.ca

sasklinkstolearning.com



Who is invited to Saskatchewan Links To Learning?

**One Land Manager and one Economic Development Officer
from each Saskatchewan First Nation.**

**Priority registration is for pre-approved community
delegates.**

**If you have any questions, please contact:
Danielle Lightning at Danielle.lightning@edo.ca
Website link: <http://sasklinkstolearning.com/>**



ALBERTA LINKS TO LEARNING



The *Alberta Links to Learning Symposium* is fast approaching, it will be held on **September 19-21** at the **River Cree Marriott, Enoch, AB**. One Land Manager and one Economic Development Officer or Councilors responsible for this portfolio from Alberta are invited to attend the Symposium.

Registrations are now open. Please contact Danielle at: Danielle.Lightning@edo.ca

www.albertalinkstolearning.com



Certifications Provided Additional Credibility For Economic/Business Development Professional

By Sam Laskaris
Cando Writer



Photo: Supplied

Jason Rasevych believes earning Cando certifications has provided him with some additional credibility in his economic and business dealings.

Jason Rasevych was already a graduate of a number of post-secondary school programs.

And Rasevych, a member of the Ginoogaming First Nation in northern Ontario, was a distinguished economic and business development professional.

Yet a few years ago Rasevych decided to further build up his credentials. He discovered Cando, the national Indigenous organization that promotes community economic development.

Rasevych then put the wheels into motion to get Cando certification. He did just that acquiring both his Professional Aboriginal Economic Developer and his Technician Aboriginal Economic Developer certificates.

Though he had a business and economic background, Rasevych said he was seeking additional credentials with a First Nations focus.

“Even though they were not in Ontario, I saw they had a national mandate,” he said of Cando, which has its office based in Edmonton.

Rasevych believes his Cando certification gives him an added credibility when dealing with Indigenous communities and their various projects.

“You have to have respect for the community,” he said. “You have to understand the community protocol and the community vision.”

Since 2011 Rasevych has been working as the economic development advisor and program manager for Matawa First Nations Management. This group consists of nine First Nation communities in northwestern Ontario.

Prior to that, Rasevych, who is 34 and now lives in Thunder Bay, Ont., held various economic roles for his own First Nation.

Rasevych’s academic achievements include earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Thunder Bay’s Lakehead University. He also has an Advanced Ontario College diploma in Business Marketing from another Thunder Bay school, Confederation College.

Plus he has an Economic Development Certificate that he obtained through the University of Waterloo. And by taking online courses he obtained a Local Government – Community Economic Development certificate through Nova Scotia’s Dalhousie University.

Rasevych believes a wide diversification is necessary in order to succeed as an economic/business developer who works with First Nations.

“It’s not how it was five or 10 years ago,” he said. “The landscape has changed.”

He credits his mixed academic background, various Aboriginal teachings and his Cando certifications for his successes today.

And he added his Cando certifications have greatly assisted him when applying for funding for various projects.

“It does give that extra clout or extra support for funding,” he said.

A proposed project Rasevych is currently working on for the Matawa First Nations Management is a \$68 million venture that would, if fully approved, bring Internet access to five remote First Nations in northern Ontario.

More: www.edo.ca/certification

Rasevych believes his Cando certification gives him added credibility when dealing with Indigenous communities...

Get Certified!

Cando Certification Paying Off For Yale First Nation Manager

By Sam Laskaris
Cando Writer



Photo: Supplied

Steven Patterson

Steven Patterson firmly believes upgrading oneself can truly be beneficial.

Back in 2015, Patterson was already employed as the natural resources manager for British Columbia's Yale First Nation. Yet he decided it would be worthwhile to put in the time and effort to get some additional certification, primarily since he was seeking extra clout when requesting funds for his First Nation.

He did just that, earning his Professional Aboriginal Economic Developer (PAED) certificate through Cando, the national Indigenous organization that promotes community economic development.

Patterson, 42, believes having his PAED certificate is paying off.

"I would say it's definitely added a degree of credibility any time we apply for funding," he said.

Patterson said applying for grant funding can be a full-time job.

"I try to stick to opportunities that focus on our priorities," said Patterson, adding he prefers to limit funding applications he seeks to 3-4 each year.

Part of the reason for that is that the Yale First Nation, located on the eastern edge of the Fraser Valley, is a tiny community. It has 180 members, 80 of which live on the First Nation.

"We have to be more creative and leverage any opportunities that come our way," Patterson said.

Plus, most people do not want to be

travelling great distances to get to work.

"People want opportunities close to home," Patterson said. "The emphasis is to provide people with those opportunities."

One such opportunity that has come to fruition for the Yale First Nation is its recently launched and yet-to-be named wood processing business.

Patterson believes his Cando certification also holds some weight when he is trying to forge business deals.

"Developing relationships is huge," he said. "I've been able to put together some relationship agreements."

Though he is not Indigenous himself, Patterson, who was born in Kamloops, has been working closely with First Nations since graduating from Thompson River University in 1999. He earned a Bachelor of Natural Resource Science degree.

Upon graduation he worked various forestry and mineral exploration jobs throughout B.C. and Yukon, often engaging with First Nations.

"It gave me a good feel for the industries," said Patterson, who was then hired to be the lands manager of the Simpcw First Nation in 2009.

Since 2012 Patterson has also been a director for Sitka Geomatics Inc., which provides support to First Nations looking to create opportunities within their communities.

More: www.edo.ca/certification

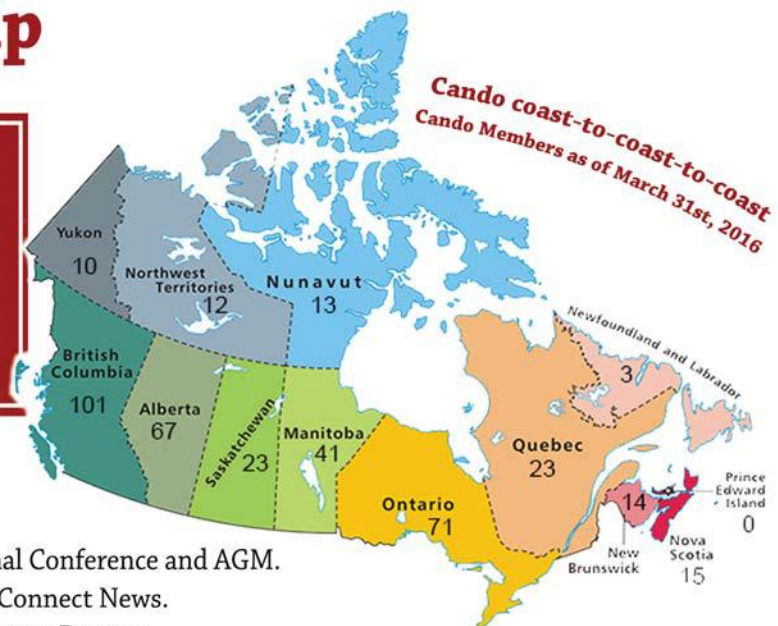
I would say it's definitely added a degree of credibility any time we apply for funding.

Get Certified!

Become a Cando Member today!

Cando Membership

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



Cando Membership Benefits:

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

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


cando
Inspiring Success



www.edo.ca

1.800.463.9300

9635-45 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T8E 5Z8