

**2005 INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER
LYLE J.R. LEO**



The Individual Economic Developer of the Year Award winner was Lyle Leo from the Mount Currie Indian Band in British Columbia. Mr. Leo has worked with the community to try and build an economic base, which was sorely lacking when he started his work. When asked where his community was at when he started his work with the community, Mr. Leo responded that they had "zero economic development". Since starting there, Mr. Leo has worked to try and establish an economic base for the community; the community has taken "stewardship over the fishery", created a first ever all Native fire crew, forestry operations and negotiated a deal with the "neighboring municipality where they can access the potable water [for] their industrial sites".

The nomination allowed Lyle to take a journey back and examine what he's accomplished and acknowledge his family, community and culture as sources of strength and inspiration for the work he does. A well deserved award! Congratulations Lyle Leo on being the 2005 Individual Economic Developer of the Year!