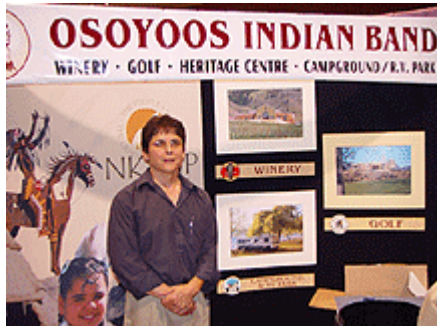


**2000 INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER
CHIEF CLARENCE LOUIE, OSOYOOS INDIAN BAND, BC**



Although he has been the chief of the Osoyoos Indian Band for fourteen years, Chief Clarence Louie confessed that he has only left the community five times in an official capacity. "Travel is expensive, and I would rather save the money and put it into social or economic development than on a trip," he said during his presentation on the Osoyoos Indian Band Development Corporation. But at the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers' (CANDO) *Let's Make a Deal Opportunities* Forum, when it was announced that Chief Louie had won the 2000 Economic Developer of the Year Award, he said in his

acceptance speech, "This is one trip I'm glad I made."

As the chief of the Osoyoos Indian Band, Louie has always maintained a strong focus on economic development. He has overseen the establishment of eight diverse businesses, which are all profitable under the O.I.B.D.C. The result is that multi-disciplined economic development growth has taken place both on and off-reserve, resulting in low unemployment and a dynamic business base. The project's strength is that it minimizes political interference by having all businesses report to the corporation.

At the President's Dinner, Chief Louie thanked CANDO for being business-focused and said, "This is an award for the Osoyoos Indian Band and I will take the CANDO 2000 Economic Developer of the Year Award home with pride."