

LESSONS FROM
RESEARCH



Editor's Introduction

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What does a carefully reasoned analysis tell us? Can we use it to guide our efforts? Can it offer clues to actions that we can take? *Painter/Lindsay/Howe* have undertaken a careful analysis of the current and future economic circumstances of Aboriginal peoples in Saskatchewan. They conclude that in the province of Saskatchewan that most of the growth in the provincial labour force over the next 50 years will come from Aboriginal communities. They see a growing Aboriginal employment gap over the next 50 years, growing from 2.9% of Saskatchewan GDP in 1995 to 7.7% in 2045. Closing the gap, they reason, is the responsibility of all Saskatchewan peoples, led by Aboriginal peoples. They conclude that for the gap to be closed that Aboriginal people must be competitive with the rest of the world in human capital.

Mann and Newhouse examine the environment within which Aboriginal human capital development is occurring. Mann argues that the practise of capitalism is responsible for the dis-empowerment of Aboriginal peoples. *Newhouse* argues that Aboriginal peoples do

not want to reject capitalism but want to make it work in ways that make sense, culturally to them. Both raise Interesting questions. Can Aboriginal peoples tame the beast that was responsible for the loss of lands and territories? Can Aboriginal peoples make it work for them?