

LESSONS FROM  
RESEARCH



## *Editor's Introduction*

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It has become commonplace and a bit trite to say that we live in an interconnected world. Yet we continue to ignore this fundamental reality. Indigenous peoples are now part of nation states around the world, for better and for worse. Development of indigenous peoples now occurs within the context of national policies, goals, and priorities and theories and frameworks that have often ignored indigenous knowledge or have used ideas and knowledge without intellectual attribution. Developing a sustained and sustainable indigenous presence within international development efforts will take much effort.

This section contains four articles that focus on aboriginal development initiatives in the international community: Don Fuller, Myles Howard and Eileen Cummings explores the development challenges facing small indigenous enterprises in the Ngukurr community of South-Eastern Arnhem Land in Northern Australia, Terrence Loomis reports on the findings from the initial phase of the Maori Sustainable Development Project, started in 1998 and Grant Isaac and William Kerr

examine issues surrounding the use of traditional knowledge in economic development strategies. They focus on the intellectual property right aspects of the debate about biopiracy and bioprospecting. Stephen Cornell and Joseph Kalt argue for the need to assess the links between American Indian economic development and local areas of control that represents the opportunity for nation-building. Reflecting on their study of U.S. Indian reservation economies, Cornell and Kalt argue that until nation-building occurs economic development is likely to remain a frustratingly elusive dream.

Wes Darou and Peter Croal examine what indigenous people might bring to the international development table and what contribution indigenous knowledge can make to improving development. David McNab reminds us of that trade and trading are important aspects of aboriginal sovereignty, both historically and in the contemporary period. He argues that much of aboriginal trade was international trade and that there is long history of international trade among and with aboriginal peoples that has been ignored. Reconnecting with this aspect of aboriginal history is an important aspect to understanding and facilitating aboriginal economic development.