

J o u r n a l o f
ABORIGINAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Volume 3, Number 2



Captus Press



CANDO



Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2



Captus Press

The Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development
Volume 3, Number 2 (Fall 2003)

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Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development (Print ed.) ISSN 1481-9112
Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development (Online ed.) ISSN 1481-9120

Cover artwork by Henry Letendre

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The Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development is the first journal devoted exclusively to issues and practices in the field of economic development and Aboriginal peoples' communities. The journal, published jointly by Captus Press and CANDO (Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers), offers articles that are of interest to those who teach and those who work in the field.

CANDO and Captus Press would like to acknowledge the financial support of Human Resources Development Canada

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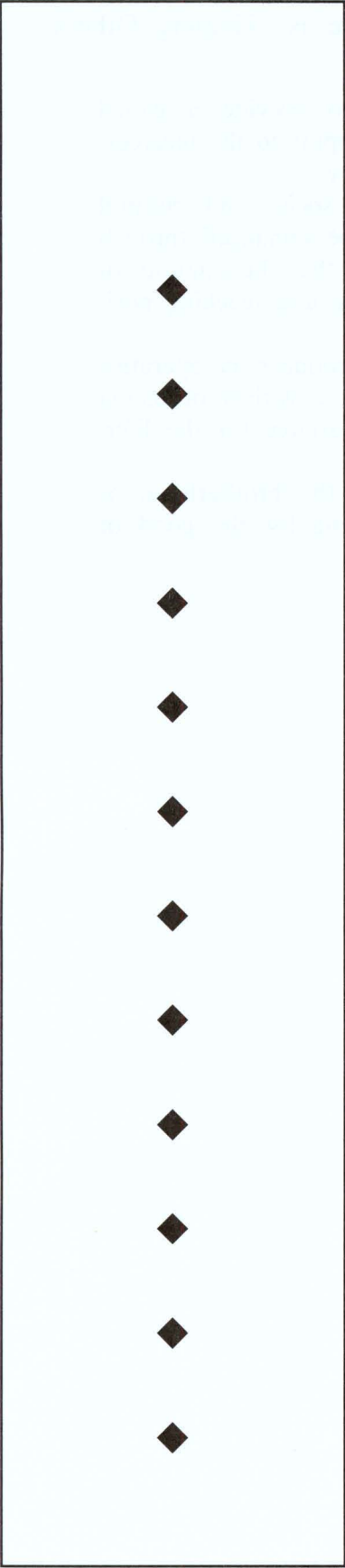
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The Artist and Joint Connections Co-operative

The artist of the painting that appears on the cover of this issue is Sydney Appleby, a member of the Little Grand Rapids First Nation, Manitoba. He was born in 1947. His mother, Bella Keeper, was Saulteaux (Ojibway) from Little Grand Rapids. His father, Sydney Richard Appleby was British. Sydney has a Journeyman Arc Welding Ticket and a B.A. degree in Psychology from the University of Manitoba.

Sydney is currently serving a life sentence for second degree murder, which he received in 1977. In prison, he continues to paint “for tranquillity reasons”. He painted this picture while serving time in Prince Albert’s medium security Saskatchewan Penitentiary. While at the SaskPen, he also joined a group of other men serving life sentences, called the “Lifers Group”. A number of the members of the Lifers Group are in the process of starting an Arts and Craft co-operative, called “Joint Connections.” It is an excellent example of Aboriginal community economic development in practice, which the members hope will provide an example for Indigenous artists in other institutions located across Canada. In an interview, one of the members proclaimed that “this project will provide a sense of direction and allow our members to bring out their talents, build confidence and improve the community inside and out.”

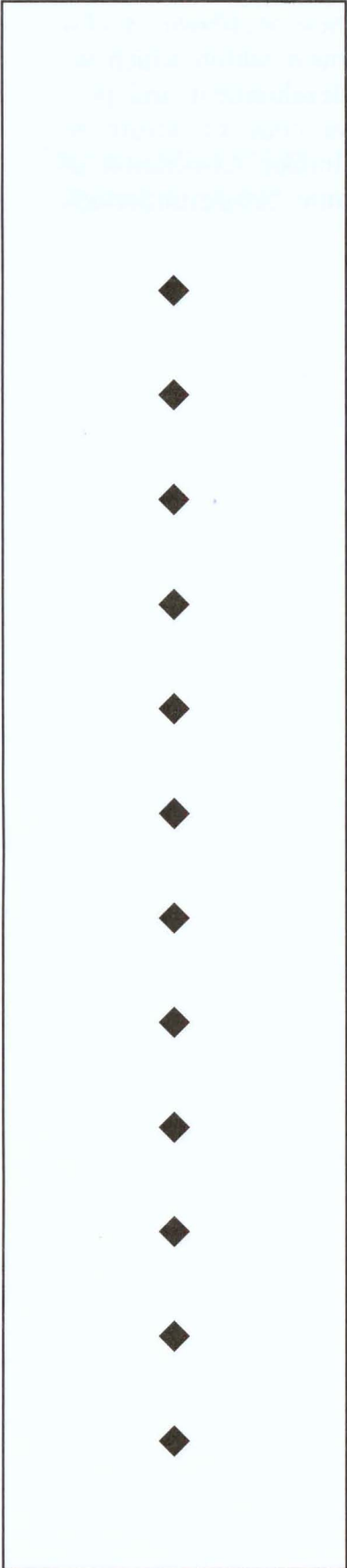
The motto of the Joint Connections Co-operative is "Helping Others Help Themselves." Their Mission Statement states:

The purpose of Joint Connections Co-operative is to provide a global resource network for financial, social and educational support to the incarcerated lifer to successfully reintegrate into the community.

Joint Connections Co-operative believes that the social and cultural strings that unite and define Canadians can and will be enhanced through artistic pursuits and commercial endeavours. We believe that the integrity of an incarcerated person can be restored through learning and teaching positive social skills.

Joint Connections Co-operative shall remain a producer co-operative based on multicultural influence and input, while using a variety of media applications. The co-operative shall remain a support resource for the lifer, the incarcerated and the reintegrated.

Joint Connections Co-operative shall be based on the brotherhood of man and the common belief in the "good of all uniting for the good of one."



Editors' Comments

This is the 6th issue of the *Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development*. The Journal continues to develop and evolve. For this issue, we have added a new recurring section called Toolkits. What we hope to do is bring to your attention items of practical interest to economic developers. Our first offering focuses on the internet and its vast resources. The net has rapidly become an important source of education and training materials as well as an excellent resource for building community and business plans. We hope that you find it useful.

Our goal is to try to achieve a balance between the needs of practitioners and the needs of academics (researchers and teachers). Our Learning from Experience section contains articles on the CANDO Economic Developers of the Year for 2002, Chief Sophie Pierre of St. Mary's Reserve in British Columbia and Ray Gerow of the Aboriginal Business Development Centre in Prince George, British Columbia as well as entrepreneurial training to youth in Kanawake, Quebec and the development of an aboriginal tourism industry in Mistissini. Our Lessons from Research section deals primarily with international developments and aboriginal peoples. David McNab's article on trade in the Bkewanong Territory in Ontario provides an important historical perspective. We also bring

you review of Laurie Meijer Drees's *The Indian Association of Alberta: A History of Political Action* that helps to understand the context within which we are working. The issue of urban aboriginal economic development and poverty is critical as many of us now live in cities and we hope to devote an entire future issue to this topic. The history of the Indian Association of Alberta helps to link us to the work that those who came before undertook in preparing a good foundation for us.

Enjoy!

David Newhouse
on behalf of the Editorial Board