

Editor's Introduction

Gifting is an awesome perspective in living life in a good way. This section offers the gift of experience to those who are following in the path of economic development. It is a wonderful opportunity to glimpse some of the experiences people from across the country have lived. Readers may be inspired or cautioned with some of the stories. They may be so excited about the information as to reach out to the authors and interviewees. That is part of the value of this section, it can be taken and made into a number of very useful opportunities. We need those opportunities and we need to hear the voices of those who are working hard in this field.

Interviews with the economic developer award nominees demonstrate the range and the depth of insight that our senior business and political leaders have gained in the field of economic development. BC's Maynard Angus offers success in resource development through the Resource Access and Information program. Chief Darcy Bear lives in a small community with big plans. They have a world-class golf course and a casino-hotel complex is underway. Construction is a dynamic industry and Gary Swite from BC shares information about his years of experience. A small isolated community has a chance to partner with a large diamond mining company. Chief Mike Carpenter shares their experiences in making the partnership a strong one.

Questions about business values and Aboriginal values often are neglected given the demands for starting new businesses. It is incredibly gratifying to integrate values into their businesses as noted by two women Aboriginal entrepreneurs with different styles but the same underlying nurturing of spirit. Wuttunee, Loustel and Overall offer case studies and a context for thinking about corporate social responsibility with its connection to Aboriginal values.

Finally, Oppenheimer, O'Connell, Hester, and Oesterreich focus on our youth and a successful summer program called Kahnawake

Summer Student Employment Program (KSSEP), which provides summer employment for approximately 50 students. Understanding solid programs and why their work has implications for other communities wanting to train their youth.