

Editor's Introduction

.....

David Newhouse

As First Nation economies begin to take shape and grow across the country, efforts turn from start-up to sustainability. Ensuring that economies grow and are sustainable over the long term becomes an important undertaking requiring institutional development, public policy support, and the fostering of a set of attitudes and values that blend both economic and Indigenous Knowledges.

This issue of JAED explores several aspects of sustainable economic development: Thompson, Gulnruk, Beardy, Islam, Lozeznik and Wong examine food sovereignty in Northern Manitoba; and Connelly, Markey and Roseland examine sustainable community planning at the Rolling River First Nation in Manitoba. Findlay and Weir examine aspects of development using the lens of Indigenous Knowledge (IK), proposing that a new accounting model that places IK at its centre will contribute to improved Aboriginal sustainable practices. Natcher, Allen and Schmid examine the low (3% vs. 80% for non-First Nation producers) participation of First Nations cattle producers in government financial aid programs during the 2003 Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (Mad Cow Disease) crisis. Bullock highlights the importance and value of First Nation and Municipal Government collaboration using a case of forest-based development, and finally Berdahl, Beatty and Poelzer examine the critical, indeed required, associations with women and youth when addressing Aboriginal community development in Canada.