

Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation

Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation's vision is one of future economic prosperity through building strong governance models, developing people and leadership, as well as accessing professional, legal and investment expertise that will move their business enterprise forward. The Nation is dedicated to creating a solid foundation on which to build a sustainable economic base through forging lasting and mutually beneficial business relationships.

Birch Narrows Dene Nation

Birch Narrows Dene Nation is an early adopter of the principles of governance advocated by the Harvard Report on Aboriginal Business. Birch Narrows believes in full transparency and prudent fiscal management in community administration, external investments, and in the Birch Narrows Development Corporation. Birch Narrows has strong governance, management and investment capability, and looks forward to pursuing opportunities that will move business forward for their community.

Carry the Kettle First Nation

Carry the Kettle First Nation is seeking to capitalize on the success of a recently developed natural gas project through strategic investment in opportunities within the energy and resources sectors. Acceptable levels of return, political stability, and effective decision making cannot be realized without the proper cultural, economic, and governmental institutions. Therefore, the community has recently initiated a community driven process that will lead to the development of appropriate institutional structures that can facilitate investment, economic development and community well-being.

File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council

File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council is in the early stages of implementing the Harvard Governance Model and addressing overall business readiness preparation. FHQTC located within Treaty Four Territory encompasses areas of oil and gas development in Southern Saskatchewan and the organization is looking to develop partnerships in the energy and resource sector to reduce dependency, and achieve vibrant, healthy, and self-sufficient communities through economic development.

Flying Dust First Nation

In spring 2009, Flying Dust First Nation initiated the process of separation of business and politics and developed a strategic plan that guides the economic initiatives of the community. The Nation is working towards a strong governance model in which all business activity is managed outside of political functions, fostering opportunities within industry, the creation of partnerships, and promotion of a business model that reflects the needs and interests of community members. Flying Dust also hopes to become a leader and motivator within the First Nations community to illustrate what is possible when an enhanced vision is realized. The desire of Flying Dust is to establish a legacy of independence and success.

Sturgeon Lake First Nation

Sturgeon Lake First Nation has established Sturgeon Lake Development Ltd., which was designed to ensure that all ventures reflect the perceptions, values and beliefs of the band and membership. The mission statement for Sturgeon Lake Development Ltd. is, *“to develop profitable businesses that generate business wealth and employment opportunities benefitting the membership of Sturgeon Lake First Nation.”* The Nation believes that with access to management expertise and capacity they will continue growth alongside the economic development of Saskatchewan.

Thunderchild First Nation

Thunderchild First Nation is committed to Governance and supports the separation of business from politics through legislation, acts and policies, as well as through the actions of Chief and Council and the Corporate Board. The development of Thunderchild's Corporate Structure is predicated upon the Separation of Politics and Business (Arms Length Relationship), Efficient and Effective Corporate Governance, and Ensuring Accountability to our Band Members and Business Partners. It is imperative that continued due diligence be an integral aspect as the Nation moves forward in evaluating and developing current and future initiatives, investments, and partnerships that assist in facilitating the Nations objectives of Economic Independence. Thunderchild First Nation currently has a large resource base of land, oil and gas and desires to maximize and optimize its resources in a sustainable manner to provide for current Band Members and those to come.

Western Region III – Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

Western Region III has been actively working towards a self-sustaining economic development model, which will allow for more versatile social programming, contributing to the overall well being of the Métis people. Creating strong industry partnerships and the establishment of long-term working relationships in the energy and resource sector is the current focus. Mentorship is a significant component of the economic development process, through the BRIDG program this Region is hoping to increase business expertise within the community. The Region is working towards conducting business more effectively, with the end result being a strong, highly competitive and effective economic development champion.

Eastern Region II

Eastern Region II is a Métis Community that has been involved in the economic development of their community for the last 40 years. They have assisted over 25 individuals in starting businesses within the region and have the expertise in assisting in small business start-ups. ERII has established, through long-term relationship building with industry, that they are a reputable organization that can compete on equal footing with any other organization by delivering quality, reliable services. The Region is backed by a long standing Board of Directors who are dedicated to the success of the Region as well as internal/external financial systems that provide credibility and accountability.

Mistawasis First Nation

Mistawasis serves a total population of 2382 members, approximately half on and half off-reserve. The First Nation recognizes that there must be a transfer of authority for business decisions to be made by the Economic Development Corporation, while remaining consistent with the vision, goals, and objectives of the community. In the last five years, Mistawasis has improved the financial condition of the community to the point where they are ready to take on significant business ventures. Although Mistawasis has only just begun looking at possible energy and resource investment opportunities, they believe strongly in the benefits of being members of the BRIDG program. The leadership has taken significant steps to create a separation between governance and administration functions and is looking now to create a complimentary business culture to generate wealth for its membership.

Muskowekwan First Nation

Muskowekwan is home to 625 band members, from a total membership of 1,570. The First Nation is in the process of incorporating Muskowekwan Ventures Corporation in order to identify opportunities generated by exploration, construction, and operation of potash mines for oil and gas wells, construction and operation of storage facilities, and operation grain and livestock industries, and formulate strategies and tactics for seizing these opportunities.

Muskowekwan is also very open to joint venture agreements and partnerships with credible, viable companies to gain the experience and networks needed to enter into the energy and resource service provider environment. This community has developed very strong relationships with industry and are ready to take the next step to becoming active, relevant players in business and economic development.

Northern Village of Pinehouse

In the late 70's the Métis community of Pinehouse was labelled by the Fifth Estate the "drinking capital of Northern Saskatchewan". This brand sparked a drive among the leadership to create changes for the community and its future. Thirty years later, Pinehouse is thriving thanks to a community centered approach and has taken ownership and pride in their future growth. Pinehouse is dedicated to establish sound business practices to create long term sustainable employment ventures that will generate wealth within the community. They see the importance in development of board governance policies to ensure the separation of the business and political bodies. The representatives of Pinehouse hope to create a professional economic strategic plan that will continue to improve community wellness.

Primrose Resources Group

Métis Development Corporation consisting of four (4) Northern Communities:

- Cole Bay
- Jans Bay
- Beauval
- Ile a la Crosse

The four communities have come together to be included in and receive benefits from participation in larger and more complex resource development projects. The Westside Northern Métis communities have not yet formed a regional corporation to represent their economic interests. Primrose has identified interest in becoming suppliers and contractors of goods and services for the

Uranium mining industry. Primrose believes that the successful startup, nurturing and development of Primrose Resources Corporation would result from the training and expertise in areas related to governance, legal, and investment transactions offered through the BRIDG program.

Sakimay

Sakimay has significant levels of funds on hand to invest and require the expertise needed to invest it wisely. The First Nation is looking to become more active and diversified in economic development and has positioned themselves well with key land investments. Sakimay is willing to partner with other First Nations as well as utilize land acquired through TLE to enter into resource investments. They are interested in creating a structure that will promote a pro business culture on and off the reserve and remove politics from business activities.

Star Blanket Cree Nation

Star Blanket Cree Nation is home to 589 members. The First Nation is looking to build a strong foundation on which to move forward with business projects. The leadership has completed significant governance activities by creating a constitution, financial management act, election act, economic development committee terms of reference, and justice code to name a few. Beginning in 2007, the Economic Development Committee engaged in training in the areas of project development, strategic planning, business planning, feasibility studies, board governance, as well as nation building. Star Blanket has created a Community Economic Development Plan which identifies economic wealth, economic independence, and the creation of a business culture as top priorities moving into the future.

Wahpeton Dakota Nation

Wahpeton recently ranked 5th among Canada's prairie First Nations on the Aboriginal Governance Index according to Frontier Center for Public Policy (FCPP). They strive for open communication to the membership by holding four General Assemblies each year. The Nation has created a constitution act, election act, and land management act. Wahpeton is dedicated to become the leading First Nation in green energy in Saskatchewan.