



FEDERAL FRAMEWORK FOR ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Aboriginal Economic Development and the Business of Fisheries

CFE Networking: “Sharing Insights”

Osoyoos, British Columbia

November 28 to December 1, 2012



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada



THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT IS CHANGING

“The development of viable business opportunities is essential to the future prosperity of Aboriginal peoples, and for improving Aboriginal employment prospects, especially for the growing number of young Aboriginal job-seekers entering the labour market. “

Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, April 2011

NEW CONDITIONS	NEW OPPORTUNITIES
A Growing Population: Over the next ten years, 400,000 Aboriginal Canadians will reach an age to enter the labour force.	Demand for Labour: 5.5 million jobs are expected to open up in Canada over the next 10 years from economic activity and replacement demand
A Growing Land Base: An already sizeable Aboriginal land base is growing significantly with the settlement of claims.	A Growing Interest from the Non-Aboriginal Private Sector: The private sector is increasingly recognizing the tremendous economic potential of Aboriginal Canadians
Proximity to Resource Development: Over \$315 billion in major resource development has been identified in or near Aboriginal communities.	Entrepreneurial Leadership: New generations of Aboriginal leaders are business-oriented, and see economic development as a means to self-reliance.





ABORIGINAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: A GROWING TREND

Aboriginal Entrepreneurs

- 34,000 Aboriginal entrepreneurs in Canada as of 2006 (an increase of 26% from 2002)
- Aboriginal Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) contribute approximately one quarter of all Aboriginal jobs in Canada

Aboriginal Financial Institutions

- Since the 1980s, a network of 59 independent Aboriginal Financial Institutions (AFIs) has provided over \$1.5 billion in financing across the Aboriginal economy
- In 2009 alone, AFIs provided over \$100 million in loans to Aboriginal businesses





CHALLENGES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Legal and Regulatory Environment

- Address barriers that impede economic development

Skilled Labour

- Improve literacy and essential skills development and industry-specific job training

Deficits in Infrastructure

- Improve commercial, communication and transportation infrastructure

Limited Financing Options

- Improve access to commercial capital and other forms of financing

Access to Lands and Resources

- Accelerate resolution of land claims and additions to reserves processes
- Operate at the speed of business

Deficits in Capacity

- Increase tools and capacity to identify and pursue economic opportunities
- Improve community development programs and Aboriginal institutional arrangements, including support for long-term planning and ready access to expert advice

Increasing Complexity of Economic Development

- Requires more sophisticated and collaborative approaches
- No one, including government, can do it alone





FEDERAL FRAMEWORK FOR ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

By focusing on opportunities, responding to new and changing conditions, leveraging partnerships and focusing on results, the Government of Canada, Aboriginal Canadians and willing partners will work together to ensure that Aboriginal Canadians enjoy the same opportunities for employment, income and wealth creation as other Canadians.

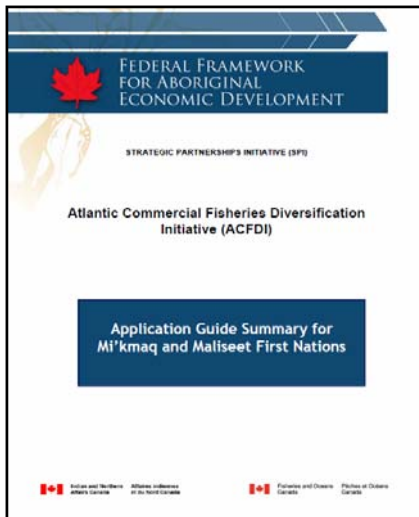
<p>Strengthening Aboriginal Entrepreneurship</p> <p>A more business friendly climate on reserve and in the North, and improved access to capital and other business opportunities will strengthen entrepreneurship.</p>	<p>Developing Aboriginal Human Capital</p> <p>Supporting demand driven labour market development will build human capital.</p>	<p>Enhancing the Value of Aboriginal Assets</p> <p>Aligning federal investments with viable economic opportunities, better management of business and community assets, and a modern lands/resource management regime will help enhance the value of assets.</p>	<p>Forging New and Effective Partnerships</p> <p>Promoting partnerships with provinces and territories and the private sector will ensure long-term, sustainable economic development.</p>
<p>Focusing the Role of the Federal Government</p> <p>The role of the federal government will be more effective and efficient with clearer direction, greater coordination, more linkages and better collaboration.</p>			



NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN ABORIGINAL FISHERIES

Strategic Focus

- The Government of Canada has started working, internally and with outside partners, to pursue opportunities to enhance the sustainability and competitiveness of Aboriginal commercial fisheries enterprises and strengthen overall sector participation.
- In keeping with the Framework, the approach being taken is opportunity-driven, business-minded, proponent-led, and partnership-based.



Innovation and Diversification

- Starting in August 2010, the Government of Canada took new steps to help the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet First Nations in the Maritimes and Gaspé Region of Quebec pursue economic opportunities in new areas of the fisheries sector (e.g., aquaculture, seafood processing, and marketing) and thereby diversify their economic participation.
- A unique partnership between DFO, AANDC and the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs.
- Proponent-driven with strong focus on problem-solving and service delivery





NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN ABORIGINAL FISHERIES (cont'd)

National Discussion – National Aboriginal Fisheries Forum (March 2011)

- An Aboriginal-hosted event, organized by the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs with co-hosts the Assembly of First Nations, the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association, the BC First Nations Fisheries Council, and the Native Brotherhood of BC.
- Support provided by AANDC and DFO.
- A unique event that brought together 170 fisheries managers and economic development officers from across Canada to explore the business of fisheries and how to promote a stronger and more competitive fisheries sector.
- The response was tremendous and has served as an important catalyst for further discussions, collaboration and partnership development.
- And this PICFI event, which targets many of the same themes, is an excellent opportunity to continue this discussion and share knowledge and build further capacity.



NATIONAL ABORIGINAL FISHERIES FORUM

OPPORTUNITIES • CHALLENGES • SOLUTIONS

