

National Perspectives on Indigenous Economic Development: Channeling Business Goals into Change that Works

Canadian Council for
**ABORIGINAL
BUSINESS**



About CCAB

The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) is committed to the full participation of Aboriginal peoples in Canada's economy. A national nonprofit, non-partisan association, CCAB offers knowledge, resources and programs to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal owned companies that foster economic opportunities for Aboriginal peoples and business across Canada.

The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) Research Department has been working across Canada for the last 10 years to develop cutting edge insight into the Aboriginal economy in Canada. *Our Promise and Prosperity: 2016 Aboriginal Business Survey* examines the characteristics, opportunities and challenges of over 1,100 Aboriginal business owners and has been credited as some of the best data on the Indigenous economy in the country.

About the Research

The *National Perspectives on Indigenous Economic Development: Channeling Business Goals into Change that Works* is Pillar 1 of a multi-year national research project supported by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). The Project will begin to lay out a blueprint for understanding the current status of the Indigenous economy, aspirations and needs among the Indigenous business community, and the road to securing sustainable economic development for future generations.

Over the past decade, the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) Research has engaged with Indigenous business owners and corporations, Corporate Canada, Government and Academic communities to provide insight into Canada's growing Indigenous economy. Through previous projects and in-depth analysis of Indigenous economic participation, on both the national and regional scale, CCAB Research has worked to bridge the gap between Corporate Canada and Indigenous business and ensure Indigenous business owners and communities are approaching the Canadian business landscape in an informed manner.

CCAB has seen some strong successes to date. Our research has:

- Informed the Government of Ontario's Indigenous Economic Development Fund (IEDF), investing \$95 million over ten years in Indigenous business and Indigenous communities;
- Helped guide corporate strategies across the country to work better with their Indigenous partners;
- Engaged over a dozen Federal Ministries, as well as Provincial and Municipal Governments, to improve their procurement spend on Indigenous firms and ensure new policy supports, rather than hinders, community growth.

Why?

CCAB Research wants to reach out to you, as an on the ground political and business leader to understand the challenges, successes and capacities that are currently experienced among Indigenous communities and economies across Canada.

By understanding the economic realities of Indigenous communities, the *National Perspectives on Indigenous Economies* will provide the opportunity for:

1. Driving towards economic reconciliation and fostering relations between Nations, Government and Corporate Canada that continue to support community-based economic development;
2. Advocating for smarter policies and programs, on both the national and regional level, that have a real impact on Indigenous prosperity, both now and in the future;
3. Creating policy driven outcomes that aid Government and Corporate Canada in making effective decisions that promote self-sufficiency, sustainability and prosperity among Indigenous communities across Canada.

Who?

Through in person interviews, telephone interviews and online surveys, CCAB will gain insight into the benefits, successes and challenges of economic development from the point of Indigenous peoples. Interviews will be conducted with:

- Aboriginal Economic Development Corporations
- Chief and Council
- Economic Development Officers
- Trust Officers
- Band Administration
- Band-owned Businesses
- Financial Lenders (Indigenous Financial Institutions, Private Banks and Credit Unions)

How?

CCAB will conduct in person interviews with community stakeholders in over 100 Indigenous communities across Canada. This will be the most comprehensive research to date on on-reserve and urban Indigenous economies, and a key driver in understanding the current opportunities and challenges for Indigenous business.

Interviews will be conducted across the ten regions recognized by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN):

- British Columbia
- Alberta
- Saskatchewan
- Manitoba
- Ontario
- Quebec
- New Brunswick/PEI
- Nova Scotia/Newfoundland & Labrador
- Northwest Territories
- Yukon

We also hope to follow up with hundreds of additional interviews and add this work to our existing list of thousands of private and community-owned Indigenous companies to get the best picture of the Indigenous economy.

Get Involved

To learn more about the *National Perspectives on Indigenous Economic Development*, contact:

www.ccab.com/research/

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