



**FIRST NATIONS OF QUEBEC AND LABRADOR ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**FNQBN  
QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT**

**JUNE 2011**



## QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT

### **FNQBN**

#### **Meeting with the Wemotaci Representatives in Trois-Rivières**

On April 6<sup>th</sup> 2011, at the request of Mr. Guy Laloche, Director of economic development in Wemotaci, Mr. Pierre Bastien and Ms Anne E. Legagneur met with a group of workers from Wemotaci who wished to launch a forestry cooperative. The meeting took place in Trois-Rivières, and six people were present: MM. Canuel Biroté, Christian Boivin, Fabien Ambroise, Guy Laloche, Pierre Bastien and Ms Anne E. Legagneur.

Mr. Bastien presented the history of the First Nation forestry cooperative an entity that was set up by the FNQLEDC and which became active during a certain time. The attendees were interested in having this cooperative transferred in their name, while taking into account certain restrictions, such as: keeping the name of the cooperative and assuring that more than two nations were represented. All those present were in agreement with the way the FNQLEDC wanted to transfer the cooperative. Unfortunately, due to the political situation, the project had to be put aside.

#### **Meeting with Manawan for the Coaching Program**

On April 18 2011, the First Nations of Quebec Business Network (FNQBN), represented by Mr. Pierre Bastien and Ms Anne E. Legagneur, met with Mr. Yvon Bellavance, Gilles Simard, Réjean Lavoie, representatives of the "*Centre d'études collégiales à Chibougamau*" (CECC). This group was accompanied by two Manawan contractors, Mr. Yvon Flamand and his partner, Ms Alice Flamand, as well as the economic development Coordinator of Manawan, Mr. Raoul Flamand.

The objective of the meeting was to put the CECC and Mr. Yvon Flamand in contact in order to establish to what extent the CECC could help Mr. Flamand maximise his income.

Last December, the FNQBN signed a partnership with the CECC to offer services to its members. This coaching program to be provided to Mr. Flamand will be a pilot project which will determine if the services proposed by the CECC are suitable for our communities.

## **CECC Proposals**

After a discussion with Mr. Flamand, the CECC is of the opinion that the coaching can take on many forms: financial analysis, company structure, optimization of certain company elements. In order to do so, the CECC must know the root of the problem. They concluded that there is a need to concentrate on the financial management of the company.

Mr. Simard, one of the CECC representatives, will relay the needed prerequisites to Mr. Flamand. These will enable him to draft the coaching program and make up his service proposition.

The FNQBN will be marked in carbon copy on all the exchange of correspondence, so that they may follow the evolution of the project.

### **Meeting Report of the FNQBN Committee (May 11 2011)**

The FNQBN Committee, composed of five members, met to review the Network's activities.

To begin with, Ms Legagneur spoke about the communities visited between October 2010 and March 2011. She mentioned the current projects with the Entrepreneurship Foundation, such as the Mentoring project that will be conducted in three communities (Kitcisakik, Mistissini, Wendake). If the communities' needs are met, it will be expanded to the other nations. The Core Indicator project on Aboriginal entrepreneurial dynamism will take into account the ten nations and will allow a clear vision on the following indicators, as well as the capacity to compare them with the Quebec population:

- Percentage of Quebec's Aboriginal adult population with an intent of entrepreneurship;
- Percentage of Quebec's Aboriginal adult population who is currently canvassing investors;
- Percentage of Quebec's Aboriginal adult population who currently owns a company;
- Percentage of Quebec's Aboriginal adult population who already closed down a company.

To ensure that the people will be well prepared and will act accordingly with all the upcoming changes, one committee member expressed the opinion that one of the Network's mandates should be to provide taxation services in the communities. Negotiations are taking place with Indian Affairs to examine the possibility of funding a three-day session on taxation information (Quebec, Val-d'Or, Sept-Îles) with Mr. David Schulze, Benoît Champoux and Christian Sénéchal.

## **Creation of First Nation Young Entrepreneurs Clubs**

This project benefits from a three-year implementation agreement. The objective is to create three clubs per year, in three communities. The communities targeted to start this project are: Lac Simon, Kitigan Zibi, Uashat. The clubs need to be part of "l'Association des clubs d'entrepreneurs étudiants (ACEE)" Network, which already counts 500 clubs and regularly organizes symposiums which are attended by the majority of them. The Association, which regroups college and university youths, agreed to work with us even if our clubs are composed of secondary five high school students, due to the absence of college and universities in our communities. We will also have our own coordinator who will make school visits to implement the entrepreneurship clubs. This work will start in the month of September.

## **Business Simulator Project**

The business simulator project is a project that will allow the FNQBN members to virtually manage a business and its budget, and see if they will be successful. Discussions are taking place with the Innu Economic Development Society (SDEI), who presently manages this project, in order to establish if the FNQBN will take over the responsibility of this project or not.

## **Participation in the 12<sup>th</sup> Mentoring Meeting for Entrepreneurs of the Entrepreneurship Foundation (May 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> 2011)**

In response to the invitation received from the Entrepreneurship Foundation, we attended the 12<sup>th</sup> mentoring meeting for entrepreneurs, held at the Delta Hotel in Trois-Rivières. The first day consisted in the workshop registration, followed by a 5 to 7 at the Borealis Museum.

The participants attended various workshops on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The first workshop consisted of the characteristics of the company's future generations, the second one on "mentoring for entrepreneurs and social economy company" talked about the difference between mentoring a privately-owned company and a social economy company. Following the networking lunch, the third workshop was an opportunity to gather together the coordinators and the mentoring leaders with a view to exchange on the best mentoring practices, present the mentors' role and his impact on the mentee. The topic of the last workshop which I attended was the entrepreneur in 2011's high technology.

On May 27 2011, the Foundation awarded its prizes, presented its national council and its sub-committees, as well as their partners. During this ceremony, the FNQBN was invited to give a twenty minute presentation that was much appreciated by the participants who wished to increase their knowledge, because they believe the project is a good and worthwhile challenge. Various advices were given, yet the wisest one of all is to allow ourselves sufficient time to elaborate the Network

because by rushing too quickly through the process, greater are the chances of failing. This advice was given to us by the Foundation founder, Mr. Marcel Lafrance, who started the Foundation from scratch and who now looks at his achievements with pride, because more than 1200 mentors are now involved in the Foundation.

### **Visit to Pikogan (June 8 and 9 2011)**

The Socioeconomic development office (SEDO) of Pikogan organised an Opportunity Day, Thursday June 9 2011, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Pikogans' school gymnasium, located at 70 Migwan Street.

Following the SEDO invitation, we participated in this activity and our booth promoted the FNQBN. Besides our booth, many other organizations deemed important to participate, such as: NCCC, First Nations Investment, Réseau M, SADC, Canada Economic Development, CLD Abitibi, etc.

The day started at 10:30 a.m. with a presentation from Ms Lise Provencher, Réseau M mentor, and Mr. Francis Provencher, Réseau M mentee. They shared their experiences and benefits of the mentoring service.

Afterwards, Mr. Michel Roby, prospector of Quebec, spoke about the prospectors' trade. In 2009, Mr. Roby joined a prospectors group eager to take charge and participate in the creation of "*l'Association des prospecteurs du Nord du Québec (APNQ)*", of which he is the President. His goal is to create a stronger network by including all the prospectors of Quebec and to defend their interests.

Next, comes the dinner followed by another presentation from Réseau M (two other mentors and mentees) who explained how mentoring works.

The last conference was given by Mr. Kenny Ruperthouse. He is the Director General of the forestry cooperative of Pikogan, the first Aboriginal forestry cooperative of Quebec. He briefly described the cooperative which employs twenty people. His goal is to seek more contracts with a view to increase the coop's membership.

Besides the conferences, two workshops were also held that day, the first one on "how to start up a project", and the other one on "how to set up a Website".

This day allowed the Network to be known. We were interviewed on the CKAG (100.1) radio about the services we offer. We also met the organizations who work with the Aboriginal communities, such as Ms Johanne Breton, Coordinator of the CLD Abitibi, Ms Madeleine Fillion, Coordinator of Entrepreneurship Projects at the "*Société d'aide au développement des collectivités (SADC)*", and Ms Lise Provencher, a mentor based in Amos.