



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

**FNQBN  
QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT**

**DECEMBER 2012**

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## **Aboriginal Entrepreneurs Conference and Tradeshow in Ottawa, October 15th and 16th, 2012**

On October 15th and 16th 2012, the Aboriginal Human Resource Council held the Aboriginal Entrepreneurs Conference and Tradeshow 2012. The goal was to provide information on how to advance initiatives for Aboriginal economic development.

The theme for this year was: "Projects, Major Opportunities: Aboriginal Participation in Canada's Development Projects". In having participated in the event, Aboriginal entrepreneurs and communities should have acquired the required tools and resources needed to create economic development opportunities that will further promote employment and purchasing within Aboriginal communities and businesses.

As an exhibitor, the First Nations Quebec Business Network (FNQBN) attended the two-day conference during which, they provided pertinent information on their organization and its goals. Additionally, several businesses such as, but not limited to: Anishinabeg, CN, I Do Business, etc., approached us on how we could work together to achieve specific undertakings.

## **Nature, Trade and Industry / Sustainable Business Conference and 5th Gala (November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012)**

Every year, the FNQLEDC, in partnership with the FNQBN, organizes two business events. This year, in collaboration with Eeyou Economic Group, a Cree organization part of Community Futures Development (CFDCs), we have combined our two events.

The event was held over a two-day period during which several conferences and training workshops were provided. During the evening of the second day, a Merit Award Gala for the Cree's took place. Not only were several entrepreneurs from different fields honoured, the Gala also provided key recognition of the accomplishments and success of Cree entrepreneurs.

Seeing as the FNQBN had a booth during the two days, the Network was able to welcome the participants and more importantly, grow its contact base and gain visibility.

## **Long Point Visit (November 2012)**

Along with the FNQBN introduction, we met with several individuals interested in either starting up projects and/or needing training in order to find employment. In addition, we provided practical advice to the former owners of the grocery store and

gas station with regards to reviving their business that was forced to close due to a fire.

Furthermore, a community resident wants to open a restaurant and, although she has already completed three quarters of the work, she has had to stop due to the lack of funds. We advised her to finalize her business plan in order to submit a request to the new Aboriginal Initiative Fund.

### **Mistissini Visit (November 22nd, 2012)**

Here, we toured the community and met with entrepreneurs to introduce the FNQBN. Furthermore, we met with individuals who have on-going projects; however they too have had to stop due to the lack of funds. Advice was given to them on how best to research funding, and they were given the available program directory relating to their search.

### **Whapmagoostui Visit (December 5th and 6th, 2012)**

During the afternoon of December 5th, we visited the community. The CEDO presented the different characteristics of Whapmagoostui as well as the tourist sites and various community organizations and businesses.

In the evening, we met with community entrepreneurs to introduce the FNQBN and its services. Furthermore, a follow-up will need to be done with a few entrepreneurs to which the FNQBN has committed to supplying information that was specifically requested.