

**2014**

**Economic Development Report**



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**Acadia First Nation**

**10/9/2014**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*This report provides an overview of the Economic Development Initiatives for the 2013/2014 fiscal year.*

*There have been many challenges this year with funding cuts, changes to programs and guidelines; however there has also been much success celebrated such as the grand opening of AFN Entertainment Centre.*

*The implementation of the Corporate Strategy phase II is now underway with a focus on marketing, branding and promotion. Our newly developed corporate package is in the final stages and will be an asset in promoting Acadia First Nation economically when attending conferences, networking seminars and trade shows. It demonstrates our work towards a sustainable future and commitment to doing business in the corporate world.*

*Business diversification and partnership development is and will remain a major focus for 2015.*

*In summary, I have prepared the following report in a best effort basis to capture the major economic activity that I am currently presiding.*

*Rachel Pictou, PAED*

*Economic Development Officer*

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Acadia has always engaged a holistic approach to development using a sustainability model that includes social, cultural, environmental and economic development aspects that together will create growth of strong, integrated, healthy communities.



*“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> “our Common Future” Report, World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987, p.43

This information was established within the Strategic Economic Development Strategy in 2009 during community meetings and working sessions with the consultants and revitalized with the Acadia First Nation Corporate and Economic Development Strategy completed in 2013.

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## **1.2 VISION<sup>2</sup>**

- ❖ Acadia First Nation is a welcoming, inclusive multigenerational Mi'kmaw Nation that is unique, self-sufficient, sustainable and successful protecting its waterways and lands, and values the traditions, people, culture and spirituality, carefully utilizing its assets and strengths for sustainability, jobs, culture and recreation.
- ❖ Acadia First Nation is economically strategic, innovative and partnership focused, striving towards unity with a land base of no geographical boundaries, compelling leadership, good governance, accountability and transparency through consistent communication and equality of services for the health and well-being of the nation carried forward to future generations.

## **1.3 MISSION<sup>3</sup>**

*“Enhancing the quality of life for Acadia First Nation and their families through community and social development while creating cultural awareness.”*

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<sup>2</sup> Acadia First Nation – Corporate Strategy 2013

<sup>3</sup> Acadia First Nation – Strategic Economic Development Strategy 2009, page 3

## 1.4 GUIDING PRINCIPLES<sup>4</sup>



The Corporate and Economic Development Strategy is built upon the cultural and traditional roots of Acadia First Nation, respecting and honoring its sacred spaces and heritage.



The Strategic Economic Development Strategy fosters the development of responsible transparent and accountable governance principles, consistent communication initiatives across communities, and resilient policy and procedure practices.



The Corporate and Economic Development Strategy is built on the assets and strengths of Acadia First Nation and its people.



Initiatives developed from the Corporate and Economic Development Strategy will continue to draw on knowledge and guidance from the Elders.



The Corporate and Economic Development Strategy fosters development through viable partnerships in economic development and employment opportunities.



The Corporate and Economic Development Strategy promotes reinvestment into the communities through education programs, employment opportunities, housing and health care initiatives.



The Corporate and Economic Development Strategy is built upon research and best practices in First Nation and Aboriginal economic development.



The Corporate and Economic Development Strategy fosters development, promotion of our communities, skills and knowledge of community members, businesses, culture and success



The Corporate and Economic Development Strategy is based on a sustainable approach that takes into consideration all the factors that influence the well-being of a community including economic, social, cultural and spiritual aspects in building a strong economy.



The Corporate and Economic Development Strategy is built on Acadia First Nation's value of protecting, maintaining and sustaining the socioeconomic progress and growth of its communities to ensure stability for now and the future generations.



The Strategic Economic Development Strategy will be adaptable, reflecting changing circumstances and reviewed as required by the Economic Development Department.

<sup>4</sup> Acadia First Nation – Corporate Strategy 2013

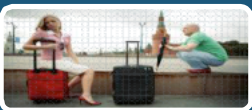
## 1.5 STRATEGIC GOALS<sup>5</sup>



To preserve and protect the Mi'kmaw culture and heritage of Acadia First Nation



To work collaboratively and build relationships and partnerships with agencies and organizations outside Acadia First nation for the betterment of its communities



To increase tourism opportunities for the communities of Acadia First Nation



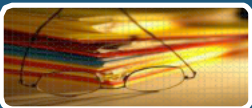
To preserve and protect the Mi'kmaw culture and heritage of Acadia First Nation



To enhance the commercial, business and industrial development for the communities of Acadia First Nation



To increase the skills and capacities of the members of Acadia First Nation



To strengthen the governance and organization of Acadia First Nation's social and economic development initiatives



To increase Acadia First Nation land ownership



To improve the physical infrastructure of the communities of Acadia First Nation

<sup>5</sup> Acadia First Nation – Strategic Development Strategy 2009, page 6

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 2013/2014

### 2.1 INITIATIVES

PROJECTS	DESCRIPTION	FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES	STATUS
<b>AFN Entertainment Centre</b>	Community Centre/Bingo Hall opened its doors on January 25 <sup>th</sup> . Available for rentals, bingo and community events.	\$300,000 Ponhook Trust	Completed  *marketing and planning initiatives are on-going
<b>AFN Business Opportunities Exploration Project</b>	Market study for vacant "winner's corner" building & 3 feasibility studies completed and presented to Chief & Council.	\$16,800 AANDC	Completed  *currently seeking funds for 1 of the business opportunities presented.
<b>Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fishery Initiative</b>	In collaboration with Kespuwick Resources, 2 proposals have been submitted this year for wages, meetings and capital expenses.	On-going	On-going
<b>GED Prep Course</b>	In collaboration with our NEO we delivered a second year of GED prep at the Yarmouth Band Office.	\$30,000 Department of Labour and Advanced Education	Completed  *due to lack of interest this program will not be delivered this year however on-going efforts continue to develop new and relevant training courses for Acadia.
<b>AFN Sawmill</b>	A new business plan was developed in partnership with Saint Mary's Business development Centre, identifying new opportunities for the mill.	\$13,600 AANDC	Completed  *efforts are now underway to seek funds for equipment upgrades and training initiatives.

<b>Geomatics Project</b>	In partnership with Membertou Geomatics, Acadia has developed its own geographic information system that will aide in economic development, housing and land management.	\$51,082 AANDC	Completed  *training and system implementation are on-going
<b>Mi'kmaw Physical Activity Strategy Coordinator Position</b>	Funding and partnership with Nova Scotia Health and Wellness; five year position with option if renewal (currently in year 2)	\$35,000 annually Nova Scotia Health and Wellness	On-going
<b>Communications Officer Position</b>	Funding for two fiscal years. (currently in year 2)	\$55,000 annually AANDC	On-going
<b>Tourism Highway Signage</b>	Yarmouth and Gold River pilot project	\$44,000 AANDC	On-going
<b>Tourism Highway Signage Amendment</b>	Wildcat and Liverpool highway signs will be developed as well.	\$44,000 AANDC	On-going
<b>Gold River Centre Planning</b>	Business Plan, Feasibility Study	\$25,000 AANDC	Completed
<b>Partnership Ready, Marketing and Promotions</b>	Phase II of Corporate Strategy. Partnership with SSBDC to develop a marketing strategy for each location and additional signage to be developed for each location.	\$36,920 AANDC	On-going
<b>Gold River Pow Wow 2014</b>	Funding for 2014	\$13,000 Heritage Canada	Completed
<b>Species at Risk Coordinator Position</b>	Funding and partnership with Bear River First Nation; two year position (currently in year 2)	In partnership with Bear River First Nation	On-going

## 2.2 PARTNERSHIPS

As EDO I work closely with a number of internal departments:

1. Employment – GED Prep, Sawmill wage subsidies, developing job descriptions, seeking training opportunities.
2. Fisheries – AICFI applications, planning and business diversification
3. Forestry – business planning, funding
4. Gaming – marketing, diversification, partnerships and bingo
5. Culture/Tourism – keji project planning committee

As well as seeking out corporate partners that share similar vision/goals as Acadia. Current corporate partners include: Wilson's, Sobeys School of Business Development Centre and UInooweg.

Funding Partners include: AANDC, Province of Nova Scotia, CMM, AAEDN, APC

## 2.3 COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT

1. **Kespuwick Resources Advisory Committee** – meets on a monthly basis
2. **AAEDN** – Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Network – meets quarterly for networking and professional development training
3. **CANDO** – Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers – provides certification and training to EDO's
4. **Beaubassin Mi'kmaw Wind Management Ltd.** – Acadia Representative, meets monthly
5. **ARALA** – Atlantic Region Aboriginal Lands Association – Land management network

## CONCLUSION

The 2013/2014 fiscal year has been very productive. I am available to meet with Band members anytime to discuss and provide assistance with business planning, feasibility studies, funding or business expansions. Looking into 2015 I welcome the challenges, successes and growth of Acadia First Nation.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me anytime at the Yarmouth Band Office: (902)742-0257 or by email: [rpictou@acadiaband.com](mailto:rpictou@acadiaband.com)