

2017

Economic Development Report



*New Gold Nugget Facility*

Rachel Pictou

Acadia First Nation

10/28/2017

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.0 Sustainable Development	4
1.1 Vision	5
1.2 Mission	5
1.3 Guiding Principles	6
1.4 Strategic Goals	7
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 2016/2017</b>	
2.0 Initiatives	8
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>9</b>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*This report provides an overview of the Economic Development Initiatives for the 2016/2017 fiscal year.*

*This past year has been a busy one with many positive outcomes; enhancing our current businesses has been a main focus as well as exploring new business development opportunities and forming strategic partnerships with industry partners.*

*Our new Gold River development has been one of the main focuses this past year. Both Gold Reserves and Gold Nugget will transition over to our new building that will be completed by the end of 2017. The new "Gold Nugget" is a 6,000 square foot facility that will encompass a Shell gas station, convenience store, gaming facilities (smoking and non) as well as the Gold Bean Café. The Gold Bean Café is a new business that will be managed by AFN. The café will serve a variety of coffee & teas as well as having a full menu. The café seats 40+ and will have some outdoor seating in the warmer months. Our partners for this project include Lindsay Construction, Shell/Sobeys Atlantic and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.*

*Our land holdings continue to grow with the parcel of land purchased this year in Shelburne County along with Hammonds Plains receiving reserve status. Both parcels will provide us with more opportunity to expand our current business portfolios.*

*In summary, this report highlights our visions, goals and guiding principles related to our economic development strategy.*

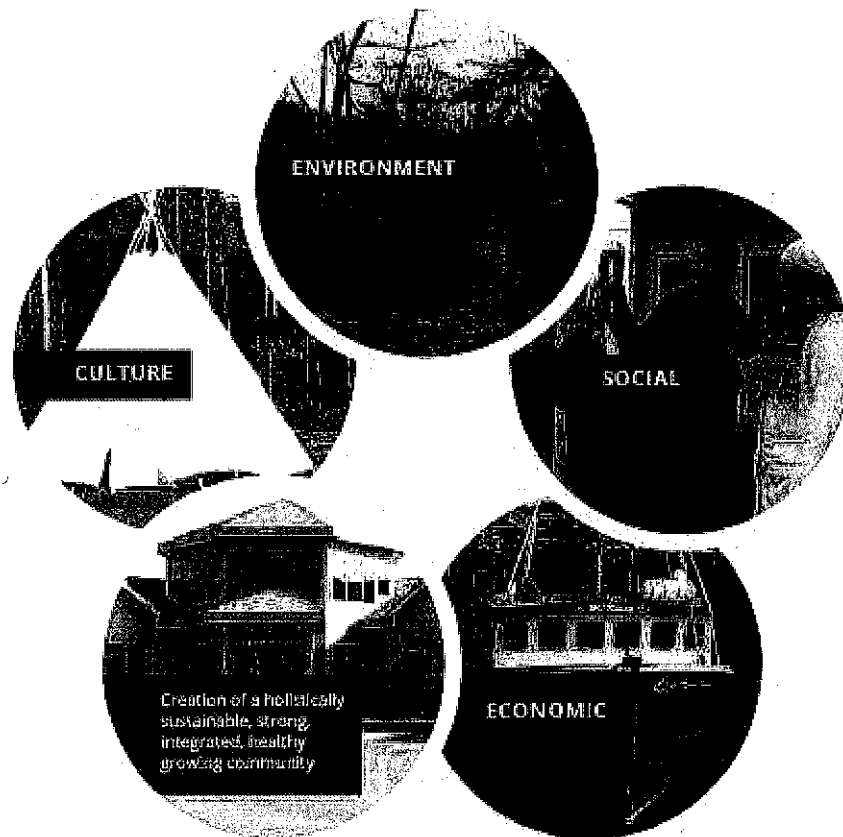
*Sincerely,*

*Rachel Pictou, PAED  
Economic Development*

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 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.

---

## **1.1 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.

## **1.2 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.”*

---

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

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

### 1.3 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

## 1.4 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



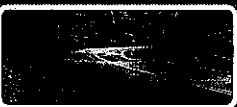
To increase the skills and capacities of the members of Acadia First Nation



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 2016/2017

### 2.0 INITIATIVES

- **Expanding and enhancing current businesses:**

Gold Nugget facility – This new building will have an increased number of fuel pumps, large convenience store, café, gaming facilities and a meeting room that can be reserved for meetings, birthdays and celebrations. Electric car charging stations will also be installed at this location.

We are also currently looking at our other existing businesses and identifying ways to further enhance their success.

- **Partnerships:**

Beaubassin Mi'kmaq Wind Management - A Mi'kmaq owned wind development company owned by all 13 First Nation Communities in Nova Scotia. The company originated from efforts of KMK to include the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq in the COMFIT program developed by the provincial government to develop wind energy projects. The wind energy generated by these projects is sold to Nova Scotia Power for a guaranteed rate for the next 20+ years. To date, Whynotts Community Wind was commissioned in 2016 and in January 2017 a second wind farm was commissioned in Amherst. Both wind farms combined generate 10 MW of energy annually.

Beaubassin Mi'kmaq Wind Company is a 51% owner in both projects and hopes to develop further energy projects in the future. As the director representing AFN I attend quarterly meetings as required to oversee the existing and new developments.

## **CONCLUSION**

The 2016/2017 fiscal year has been very productive. I am always available to meet with Band members anytime to discuss and provide assistance with business planning, feasibility studies, funding or business expansions.

Looking into 2018, 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.ca](mailto:rpictou@acadiaband.ca)

