



National Indigenous Economic Development Board (NIEDB)

Presentation for the Nunavut Mining Symposium

May 2022



Dawn Madahbee Leach

- In Spring 2021, **Dawn Madahbee Leach** was appointed Chair of the NIEDB
- Ms. Madahbee Leach is an Anishinabe-kwe and member of the Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation
- Since 1988, she has been the General Manager for the **Waubetek Business Development Corporation**, a leading Indigenous Financial Institution that provides financial services to Indigenous entrepreneurs and 27 First Nation communities in Northeastern Ontario





Introduction

- Overview of national initiatives – Indigenous involvement within the mining industry can bring a sustainable lens to regional development
- If structured properly, exploration and mining activities can make a significant contribution to the prosperity and well-being of Indigenous communities
- In addition to jobs and business opportunities, Indigenous communities are interested in equity ownership in major development.



Picture credit: <https://thefutureeconomy.ca/spotlights/mining-4/>

National Indigenous Economic Development Board: General Information



- Established in 1990, members of the National Indigenous Economic Development Board are appointed by the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada with a mandate to provide strategic policy advice to the federal government on issues related to Indigenous economic development
- Comprised of **First Nations, Inuit, and Métis business and community leaders** from across Canada, the Board helps government respond appropriately to the unique needs and circumstances of Indigenous peoples in Canada





Experts in Indigenous Economic Development

- The NIEDB has three decades of experience providing **policy advice** and recommendations to the federal government
- The Board's **published reports** are widely cited in academic and government papers, as well as within community and industry discussions
- Board members are respected and **recognized leaders** in their industries and communities
- Board members **present to Parliamentary Committees**
- Board members are deeply **engaged in networks**, committees, and tables at all levels of the Canadian government, as well as at the **international level**

NIEDB Areas of Interest



- The NIEDB focusses on a variety of topics including, but not limited to:
 - National Indigenous Economic Strategy
 - Economic Reconciliation
 - Women’s Economic Policy
 - Infrastructure and Connectivity
 - Food Security
 - Indigenous Procurement Policy
 - International Trade



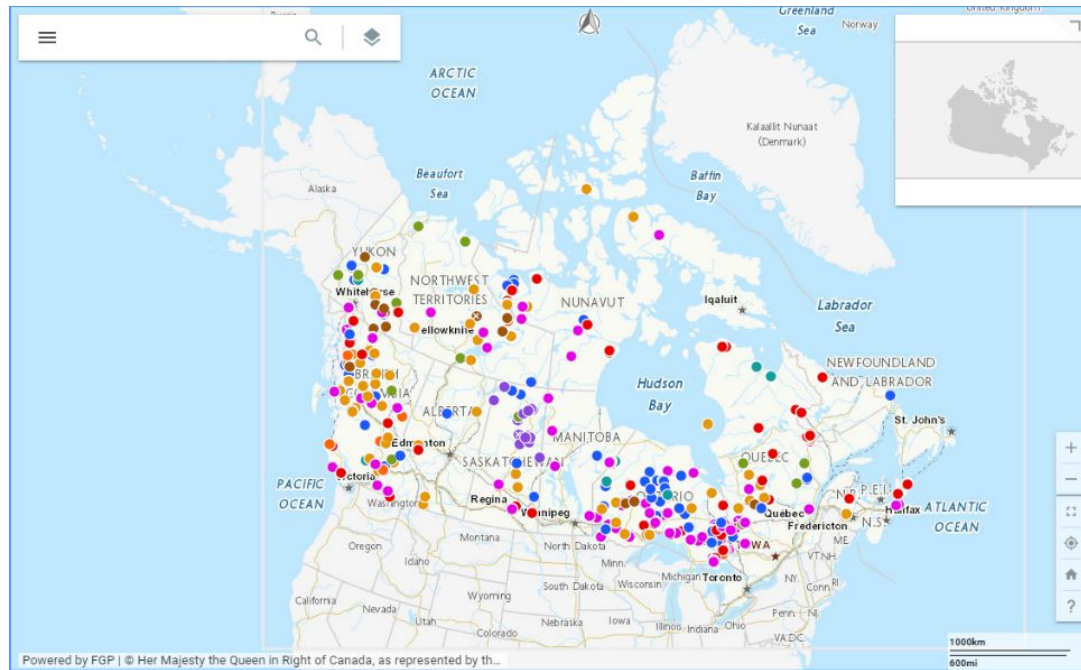


Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor)

- **CanNor** is committed to protecting sovereignty along our northern border, promoting social and economic development, protecting Indigenous peoples heritage.
- **NIEBD recommendations** for economic reconciliation (including regional development agencies):
 - Co-develop implementation plan for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with Indigenous peoples
 - Formally recognize the jurisdiction and legal frameworks for Indigenous peoples to control and participate in development in their territories
 - Support the development of Indigenous-led institutions
 - Support the network of Aboriginal Financial Institutions with capital
 - Increase funding for Indigenous economic and business development



FPIC and Indigenous Mining Agreements



- **Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)** is a right of Indigenous peoples articulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Interactive Map of Indigenous Mining Agreements shows where agreements are taking place across the country and provides information on exploration projects and mines and Indigenous communities (<https://atlas.gc.ca/imaema/en/index.html>)

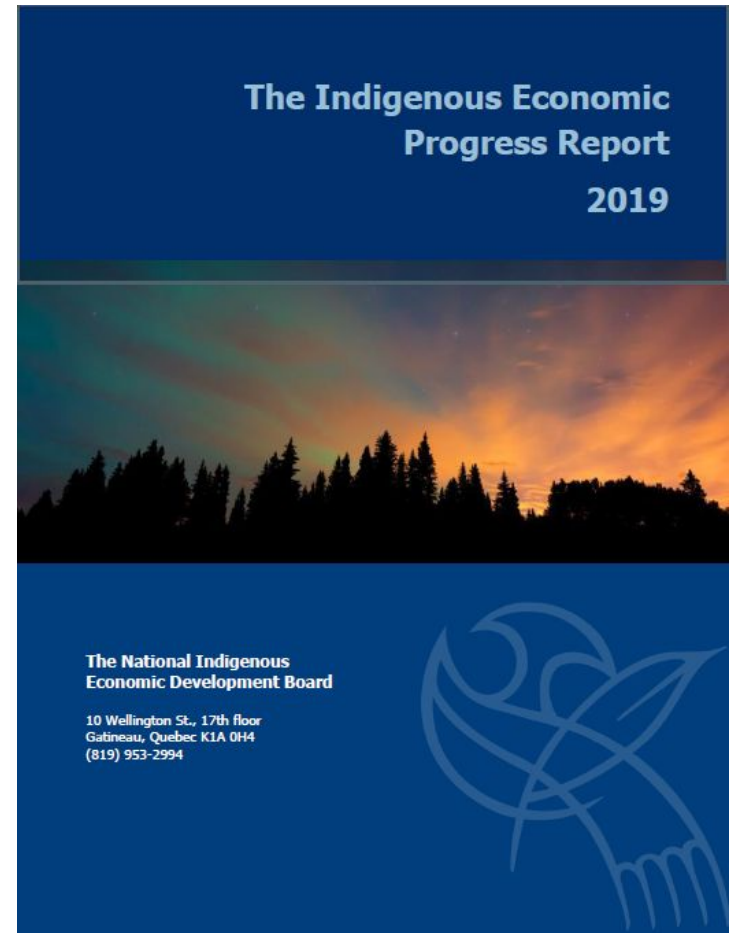


- NIEDB Recommendations on Reconciliation and Inclusive Economic Growth for Indigenous Peoples and Canada include:
 - Inuit themselves must define and determine how economic prosperity should work for their communities based on the Inuit culture, traditions, and the commitments established in land claim agreements
 - **Procurement, access to capital, capacity development, and wealth sharing** are the crucial components of the economic development for Indigenous communities, businesses, and peoples
 - Initiatives need to address cross-cutting issues that affect Indigenous economic development while respecting the distinct nature and needs of the three identity groups.



Indigenous Economic Progress Reports

- The Board identified in the **2012 *Aboriginal Economic Benchmarking Report*** a comprehensive set of indicators and benchmarks to measure the social and economic well-being of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis in Canada
- In 2015 and 2019, the Board published ***Indigenous Economic Progress Reports***, which continue to measure progress against the initial benchmarks set in 2012
- The next ***Progress Report*** is scheduled for publication in 2023





2019 Indigenous Economic Progress Report Recommendations



The National Indigenous
Economic Development Board

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO CLOSE SOCIO-ECONOMIC GAPS BETWEEN INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

CORE INDICATORS OF ECONOMIC SUCCESS



EMPLOYMENT

- Ensure community workforce plans are informed by local employment needs of businesses so students can target education plans accordingly



INCOME

- Increase training and internship opportunities for employees to increase their earning potential in higher income occupations



COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

- Co-develop a broad dashboard of well-being outcomes to reflect mutually agreed-upon metrics (health, culture, environment, language)

UNDERLYING INDICATORS OF ECONOMIC SUCCESS



ENTREPRENEURSHIP & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Enhance business services and raise awareness of funding supports and programs
- Provide access to skills training for new business owners
- Fund Aboriginal Financial Institutions to ensure entrepreneurs are able to access capital



INFRASTRUCTURE

- Bring advanced connectivity to Northern and remote communities
- Continue and expand investment in housing



EDUCATION

- Improve on-reserve education systems
- Develop bridging programs to help students wanting to upgrade from college to university
- Invest in distance education programs
- Expand and continue scholarship funding



GOVERNANCE

- Examine needs and opportunities aimed at urban Indigenous populations
- Support governance and financial management training and certification



LANDS AND RESOURCES

- Increase resources to the Additions to Reserve program to expedite applications

GENDER, YOUTH AND IDENTITY GROUP



GENDER

- Develop or adjust policy and programs to improve educational outcomes for men and employment/income outcomes for women



FIRST NATIONS

- Ensure distinctions-based approach to program and policy development
- Focus on better data collection and assessment of policy measures that stimulate economic development



INUIT



MÉTIS



YOUTH

- Promote Indigenous entrepreneurship amongst youth
- Create urban Indigenous healing and employment hubs
- Create an alumni fund to enable mentorship



Indigenous Centre of Excellence for Mineral Development

- **Mission:** Act as a clearinghouse of information on the mining sector and build Indigenous capacity in the industry.
 - Offer access to data, tools, templates, case studies, research, referral services and training
 - Mining 101 training: Support Indigenous communities to develop an understanding of the mineral resources in their traditional territories and to engage fully in the mining industry with insight and expertise
 - Expand the focus to support Indigenous Mineral Development in collaboration with government and non-government funding partners such as Rio Tinto



First Nations Major Projects Coalition

Mission: Support Indigenous communities with the tools, capacity development, and advice related to corporate structures and benefit sharing models, environmental protection and impact assessment

- Assisted 12 First Nations to participate in the 2019 **Coastal Gas Link Equity Transaction Project** sale process (GCL First Nation Limited Partnership-FNLP)
- 90 Indigenous Communities working together and sharing their experiences
- Assist FNLP in designing the project governance through community leadership to help build business capacity





Strategic Partnerships Initiative (SPI)

Mission: Increase Indigenous participation in large, complex, multi-year economic opportunities that span a range of industries and sectors

Strategy: Harmonize federal partners' efforts to reduce administrative burden, pool resources to support Indigenous communities, and address programming gaps of economic development opportunities

- **True North Treasure/Labrador Trough:** Develop Indigenous human capital (labour market), strengthen Indigenous entrepreneurship and enhance the value of Indigenous assets
- **Arctic Gateway Group Initiative:** Support maintenance and capital investment





OECD Report: *Linking Indigenous Communities with Regional Development in Canada*



Activating opportunities for Indigenous peoples depends on four interconnected elements:

- *good data*
- *enabling policies for entrepreneurship and small business*
- *instruments to mobilize land for development*
- *effective and inclusive governance*

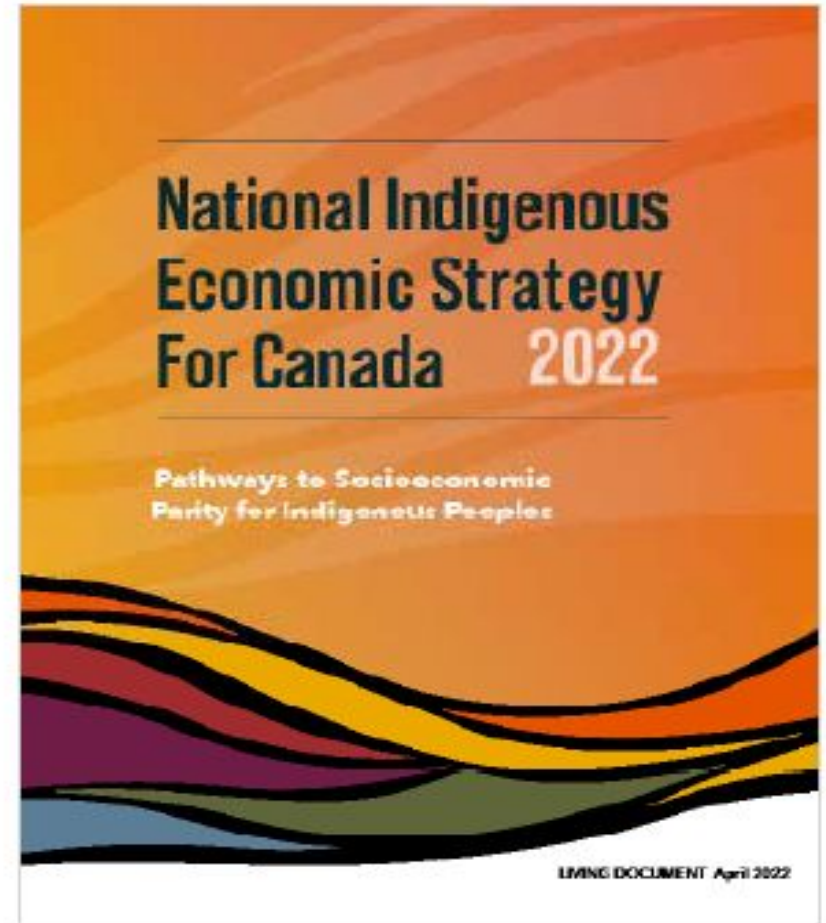
Canadian recommendations included:

- explore how Indigenous groups access, protect and use land according to their own objectives, while still respecting the principle of self-determination
- establish a registry of Indigenous-owned businesses
- annual Indigenous economy reports, highlighting progress and leading practices



National Indigenous Economic Strategy (NIES)

- NIES was developed in collaboration with 25 of Canada's national Indigenous organizations and includes 107 "Calls to Economic Prosperity".
- The strategy will provide all levels of government, industry, all institutions and all Canadians on how to meaningfully include Indigenous Peoples in Canada's economy.
- Official Launch – June 6, 2022





National Indigenous Economic Strategy (cont.)

- The Strategy is comprised of 4 Strategic Pathways:
 1. People
 2. Land
 3. Infrastructure
 4. Finance



Conclusion



We must empower our communities in exercising their own jurisdiction and authority

The future requires Indigenous involvement across all fields, especially:

- Sustainable resource development
- Mitigating climate change
- Opening doors to international trade
- Addressing labour shortages
- Increasing economic productivity
- Providing access to basic services in remote and rural areas
- Improving Canada's human rights record



Miigwetch!
Thank You!