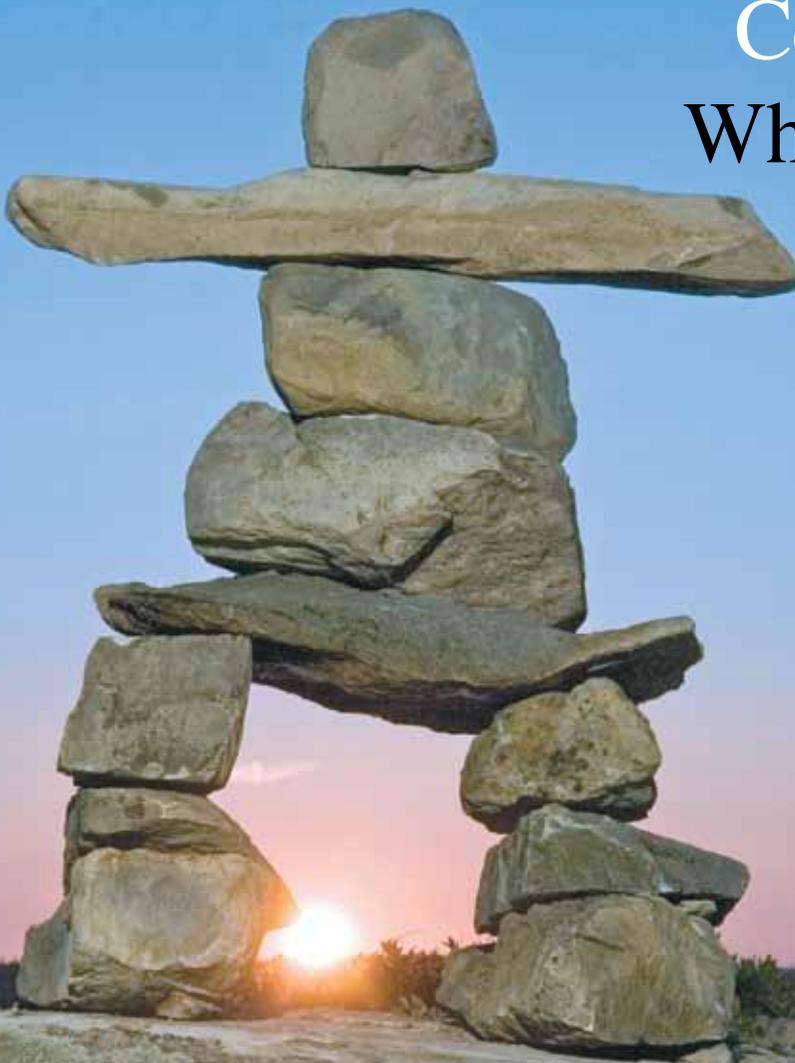




Summary September 2009

Centre for the North Who's Doing What in Northern Ontario



WHO'S DOING WHAT IN NORTHERN ONTARIO?

An Analysis of 41 Community and Economic Development Organizations Working in the Region

KEY FINDINGS:

Northern Players and Activities—There is a diversity of community and economic development organizations working throughout Northern Ontario.

Challenges and Opportunities—Northern Ontario is a large geographical area that makes networking and capacity building among stakeholders difficult; however, given the focus on and commitment to northern regions lately, solutions to this challenge will likely be possible.

Coordination, Cooperation, and Capacity—Internet-based tools that help community and economic development organizations with their mandates will help to increase cooperation, capacity building, and the realization of “vibrant communities” across this expansive region.

Unique and Integrative Player—The Conference Board of Canada’s “Community Solutions Model” fills an important gap, offering Northern Ontario stakeholders an opportunity to network and share information using innovative and culturally and regionally appropriate web-based tools.

INTRODUCTION AND APPROACH:

The Conference Board of Canada is launching a new “Community Solutions Model.” The Board initiated this research to identify possible partners, avoid duplication of work, and ensure that its contribution to Northern Ontario is indeed novel. An Internet- and telephone-based search was conducted to better appreciate the activities of key players in Northern Ontario. This research explicitly identified community and economic development organizations working in the region.

A list of key organizations and associated information (i.e., website, location, focus, activities, and future plans) was compiled in an alphabetical directory. Based on the information recorded, a code was assigned that best described the primary activity of each organization, which allowed for graphical representation. This research has generated useful results, facilitating understanding about and connection with individual organizations, while elucidating the larger systematic trends about “who’s doing what in Northern Ontario.”

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

In total, 41 community and economic development organizations were researched and are listed in the directory. These organizations are engaged in a diversity of activities in Northern Ontario including: **municipal** initiatives for community and economic development; activities to promote prosperity in **Aboriginal** communities; **research** activities related to community economic development; specialization in **networking** for development; promoting **French** business and culture; **granting** agencies; **youth** support and outreach; promoting community **health**; assisting financial independence for persons with a **disability**; and assisting **women** entrepreneurs. (See Chart 1.)

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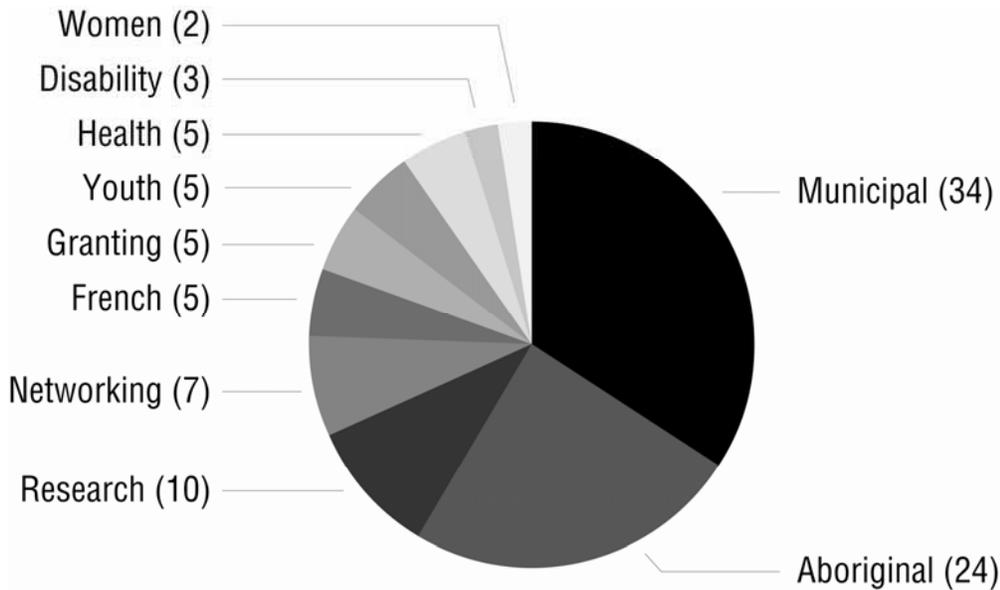
The major community and economic development areas of activity related to municipal governance (35 per cent) and Aboriginal affairs (24 per cent). There were numerous municipal development corporations servicing the various regions in Northern Ontario. An important municipal player and potential partner is the Highway 11 Mayors’ Task Force, which is an advocacy group that highlights and finds solutions to economic challenges in Northern Ontario. Given that Northern Ontario has significant tracts of Aboriginal territory, many organizations exist to ensure indigenous peoples are properly represented and supported. Research (10 per cent) is taking place within centres/institutes across the region at Lakehead (Thunder Bay), Laurentian (Sudbury) and Algoma (Sault Ste. Marie) universities. Networking (7 per cent) is taking place in the region and is being coordinated largely by The Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNET), which is presently organizing the nascent Ontario Social Economy Roundtable. Since The Conference Board of Canada is also interested in networking, CCEDNET is a natural partner organization with an outstanding track record. Of those engaged in granting activities (5 per cent), FedNor is the most significant player. It has and continues to invest millions of dollars in the region annually.

This analysis indicates that Northern Ontario has many organizations, which, if properly networked and connected with one another, could share information and build capacity for the region as a whole. Given that Northern Ontario is so geographically spread out, the Internet seems to be an ideal tool to deliver programs and connect stakeholders, and indeed some organizations reviewed were already turning to electronic tools for these services.

CONCLUSION:

The Conference Board of Canada’s “Community Solutions Model” fills an important gap, offering Northern Ontario stakeholders an opportunity to network and share information using innovative and culturally and regionally appropriate web-based tools.

Chart 1



WHO'S DOING WHAT IN NORTHERN ONTARIO? 41 Community and Economic Development Organizations And Their Activities In The Region*

Community and Economic Development Organizations in Northern Ontario

1. Algoma University College
2. Association des francophones du Nord-Ouest de l'Ontario
3. Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNET)
4. Centre d'avancement de leadership et de development economique communautaire de la Huronie (CALDECH)
5. Chukuni Communities Development Corporation
6. Common Voice Northwest
7. Community Development Corporation of Sault Ste. Marie & Area (CDC)
8. Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO)
9. East Algoma Community Futures Development Corporation (EACFDC)
10. FedNor
11. Greater Grand Sudbury Development Corporation (GSDC)
12. Greenstone Economic Development Corporation (GEDC)
13. Highway 11 Mayors' Task Force
14. Independent Living Sudbury/Manitoulin (ILSM)
15. Kasabonika Economic Development
16. Lakehead University Centre for Tourism and Community Development Research (CTCD)
17. Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO)
18. National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACC)
19. Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF)
20. Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC)
21. Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge Institute (NORDIK)
22. Northern Ontario School of Medicine Community Development Program (NOSM)
23. North South Climate Change Network (NSCCN)
24. North-South Partnership for Children
25. Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)
26. Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition (OHCC)
27. Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry
28. Ontario Social Economy Roundtable (OSER)
29. PARO Centre For Women's Enterprise
30. Rainy Lake Tribal Area: Business and Financial Services Corporation
31. Rainy River Future Development Corporation (RRFD)
32. Sioux Lookout Economic Development Commission
33. Sudbury Action Centre for Youth (SACY)
34. The Northwest Business Centre (NWBC)
35. Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC)

* Note: Quotation marks indicate material taken verbatim from an organization's website.

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36. Thunder Bay Ventures: Community Futures Development Corporation
37. Timmins Economic Development Corporation
38. Union of Ontario Indians (UOI)
39. Wakenagun Community Futures Development Corporation (Wakenagun CFDC)
40. Waubetek Business Development Corporation
41. Wawatay Native Communications Society

1. Algoma University College

Website: www.algomau.ca

Location: Sault Ste Marie, Ontario

Focus: This Northern Ontario university offers a diversity of academic programs to over 1,200 students, and offers a community economic and social development (CESD) degree. “The CESD program is accredited by the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO) and by the Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC).”

Activities: According to CCEDNET’s website (<http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/?q=en/node/3577>), Algoma’s CESD degree “is the only undergraduate degree of its kind in Canada. This innovative interdisciplinary B.A. (Hons) or Certificate program combines economic and social approaches to sustainable community development. The CESD program provides education and professional development in community economic and social development with a special focus on small cities (population: 150,000 or less), rural, Northern, and First Nation communities.”

Future plans: Faculty within the CESD department is engaged in community-based research, community economic development, and international development. This research and education is ongoing at Algoma University.

2. Association des francophones du Nord-Ouest de l’Ontario

Website: www.afnoo.org

Location: Thunder Bay, Ontario

Focus: The organization’s website is currently under construction. However, CCEDNET’s website (<http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/?q=en/node/3997>), indicates that it organizes “programs related to the cultural, educational, economic, and political well-being of the Francophones from North-West Ontario.”

Activities: According to CCEDNET, this organization’s activities include publication of the journal *Le Relais* (distributed to 1,400 people in the region), a website and other send outs, as well as networking opportunities through conferences and symposiums.

Future plans: No information available.

3. Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNET)

Website: www.ccednet-rcdec.ca

Location: Ontario

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Focus: “The Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNET) is a national member-led organization committed to strengthening Canadian communities by creating better economic opportunities and enhancing environmental and social conditions.” CCEDNET’s vision “believes in sustainable and inclusive communities directing their own social, economic, and environmental futures.” It is “a member-led organization committed to strengthening communities by creating economic opportunities that improve environmental and social conditions. We bring people and organizations together to share knowledge and build a collective voice for CED action. Our members are part of a movement creating community-based solutions to local and global challenges . . . The Ontario CED Network brings together an emerging group of individuals and organizations representing a broad range of communities across our regions. Members are developing strong CED initiatives and plans to strengthen and grow community economic foundations.” The Ontario region CCEDNET link is: http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/?q=en/regional_networks/ontario.

Activities: “The recent activities which the Ontario region has been involved in are: submission to the Ontario 2009 Pre-Budget Consultations (. . . stating the case for the inclusion of CED in the provincial budget); creating an Ontario Not-for-profit Corporations Act (. . . modernizing the Ontario Corporations Act); the Ontario CED Collaborative (. . . under funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation CCEDNET Ontario partnered with Ontario Co-operative Association and the Community Economic Development Technical Assistance Program to create this innovative collaboration); and Train-the-Trainer Workshops (in partnership with Algoma University College’s NORDIK Institute . . . CCEDNET Ontario has developed and implemented a session to develop understanding of and skills in CED within Northern communities in Ontario.)”

Future plans: Projects that are currently taking place in Ontario include:

- “Under new funding from the Trillium Foundation CCEDNET Ontario is advancing the CED network in the province. We will be continuing with our regional workshops and tele-learning sessions to inspire further collaboration and information sharing within the CED sector. A youth internship pilot program has been developed to create CED work experience opportunities to Canadian immigrant and Aboriginal youth in the North. As well, we are actively contributing to the formation of a provincial Immigrant and Refugee Community Action Network (ICAN).”
- “CCEDNET Ontario is collaborating with other leaders on The Ontario Social Economy Consortium to build the social economy of Ontario. A major focus of this project is the development of an Ontario Social Enterprise Trust that would provide long-term patient capital loans to social enterprises throughout the province.”
- CCEDNET has an online directory of organizations that are leading community economic development in the province. This directory was used to research many of the organizations in this report and can be found at: www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/?q=en/directory&op0=OR&op1=OR&op2=%3D&op3=contains&op4=OR&filter0=**ALL**&filter1=on&filter2=**ALL**&filter3=&filter4=**ALL**&search=Search+the+directory&form_id=views_filters.

4. Centre d’avancement de leadership et de developement economique communautaire de la Huronie (CALDECH)

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Website: none

Location: Penetanguishene, Ontario

Focus: According to CCEDNET's website (<http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/?q=en/node/3399>), CALDECH "plays a leadership role in order to promote the abilities as well as the Francophone and bilingual resources in the region." It is "... a central point for the development of innovative products and services, the creation of businesses and of jobs that demonstrate the added value of the Francophones of Simcoe county, and ... the only Francophone non-profit CED organization in Ontario."

Activities: According to CCEDNET, CALDECH supports "project management, support to business people, funding research, and strategic planning" that creates economic development, creates jobs, and builds community capacity.

Future plans: No information available.

5. Chukuni Communities Development Corporation (CCDC)

Website: www.chukuni.com

Location: Red Lake, Ontario

Focus: "The Chukuni Communities Development Corporation is funded by Industry Canada for the purpose of creating and maintaining employment through small business development. Our goal is to help strengthen the economies of Ear Falls, Red Lake, and the surrounding area by assisting local entrepreneurs in the development and expansion of small business."

Activities: The CCDC has helped launch and maintain a number of small businesses in the regions by offering office resources, advisory and technical services, and financial services.

Future plans: Continuing to expand their membership organizations and promote a healthy economy in their region.

6. Common Voice Northwest

Website: www.commonvoicenw.org

Location: Thunder Bay, Ontario

Focus: "The NWO Common Voice Initiative is a movement toward unified action by the citizens of Northwestern Ontario to chart their own course within the province and the country by addressing regional challenges with realistic Northern solutions ... The role of the Common Voice will be to ensure that, to the best of its ability, and through co-operation with all of its partners, the people of the Northwest become more advantaged than they are today. The Common Voice will identify, promote, and develop economic opportunities in and for Northwestern Ontario. It will also enter into a dialogue with all residents and interest groups of the region to determine those projects that should be undertaken as a priority."

Activities: "To begin, the Common Voice is engaging the expertise of regional leaders within identified industries and challenged areas. These leaders are forming into Task Forces or

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Regional Committees to identify the issues and create action plans.” These action plans focus on the following areas:

- Agriculture Task Force: “Provides region wide leadership for the development of our agricultural industry.”
- Transportation Task Force: “Focus on the access needed for a growing economy.”
- Health and Education Task Force: “Moving the Northwest forward into the knowledge economy.”
- Regional Tourism Council: “Developing and fostering a Northwestern Ontario tourism strategy which addresses key issues, including planning, policy, and product development.”
- Energy Task Force: “Examining the viability of developing a regional energy authority.”
- Regional Enhancement Committee: “Provides region-wide leadership for community and labour adjustment.”
- Research, Investment and Development Corporation: “Providing a coordinated entry point into the knowledge economy by marketing the region as a locus for partnerships and immigration.”
- Policy Research Institute: “Would serve as an arm’s length source of policy advice to regional leaders and a repository of knowledge and data on the region.”

Future plans: This organization seems to be in the process of implementing its above stated goals. There is no specific mention of future initiatives.

7. Community Development Corporation of Sault Ste Marie & Area (CDC)

Website: www.ssmcdc.com

Location: Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Focus: The CDC is a non-profit, community-based organization funded by FedNor and established in 1986. “The organization is dedicated to helping small and medium-sized businesses access services and capital, as well as enhancing the community’s economic and employment base through community-based planning and economic development initiatives.” The organization’s mission is to “work with individuals, businesses, and community partners to facilitate the creation and maintenance of jobs and to build healthy, sustainable communities.” It does this by providing business information and advisory services, financial support for businesses, and various community economic development activities.

Activities: The CDC outlines its activities on a factsheet on its website (www.ssmcdc.com/view.php?page=fact_sheet). They include:

- “An investment fund for business (loans, loan guarantees, and equity investment of \$1,000 to \$150,000 per business). The maximum investment amount can be increased to \$500,000. . . . Since 1987 the Investment Fund has provided over \$12.5 million in loans and equity investments to 386 businesses that have assisted in creating or sustaining 1,776 local jobs. These investments leverage another \$20.7 million from banks, owner’s equity, government, and non-traditional sources.”
- Business counseling and consulting services, which are free of charge and “. . . since 1987 . . . have assisted in creating or sustaining 2,403 jobs.”

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- Self-Employment Benefit Program (50 weeks of benefits), which “provided over \$11.6 million in EI benefits to over 622 local businesses that have created in excess of 706 jobs.”
- Wage Subsidy Program (WSP— up to 26 weeks of subsidy), which, between 1998 and March 31, 2005, “provided nearly \$5,000,000 in benefits to over 868 local businesses that have created 922 jobs.”
- It also offers a variety of other services to support its mission.

Future plans: No information available.

8. Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO)

Website: www.edo.ca/about-cando

Location: Edmonton, Alberta

Focus: “CANDO is Aboriginal-controlled, community-based and membership driven, and is directed by a national regionally represented volunteer board of elected [economic development officers] EDOs representing region of Canada. As a federally registered, non-profit society, CANDO has been instrumental in facilitating partnerships with EDOs, academics, Aboriginal leaders and senior corporate and government representatives.” The vision of CANDO is “to build capacity which strengthens Aboriginal economies by providing programs and services to Economic Development Officers.” Its mission is “to be the leading authority on Aboriginal Community Economic Development.”

Activities: CANDO has designed the first national certification process for Aboriginal economic developers, which is administered by an Aboriginal organization. There are two levels of certification: “Technical Aboriginal Economic Developer” and “Professional Aboriginal Economic Developer,” which “...provides candidates with a broad understanding of economic development, community development, and the unique legal and cultural aspects that differentiate Aboriginal economic development from that in urban centres and municipalities.” CANDO also offers scholarships, youth programs, conferences and various learning tools and events that promote Aboriginal economic development.

Future plans: CANDO has developed a three-year work plan which focuses on organizational growth and is based on its founding principles of striving “to be the leading national organization with the capacity to devote its activities to strengthening Aboriginal economies;” communication (“... will communicate with its stakeholders to ensure its programs and services are applicable”); and sustainability (“... becoming a self-sustaining organization”). The full 2008/2009 work plan is available for download on its website. Over the next year, CANDO is seeking to “develop training proposals for Technical Level for EDOs across the country—including Ontario—through its accredited education institutions (i.e., Algoma University in Ontario). It seeks “12 new certified EDOs per region each year by 2008/2009.”

9. East Algoma Community Futures Development Corporation (EACFDC)

Website: www.eastalgomacfdc.ca

Location: Blind River, Ontario

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Focus: “The East Algoma Community Futures Development Corporation (EACFDC) is a federally supported not-for-profit Community Futures Development Corporation.” It “supports community economic development by assisting East Algoma communities and entrepreneurs to strengthen and diversify the local economy. Our mission is to work towards a stronger regional economy while preserving the quality of life. The following five objectives serve to guide and direct us in the pursuit of our mission: to create jobs; to maintain our quality of life; to forge strong community partnerships; to encourage new ventures; and to improve human resources.”

Activities: In order to meet its objectives the EACFDC offers: “strategic community planning and socio-economic development; support for community-based projects; business services; and access to capital/small business loans.”

Future plans: In addition to continuing its day-to-day operations, it is also working on an East Algoma and area development strategy and, in doing so, is preparing for investment readiness and labour, training, and community economic development support to boost the viability and prosperity of the region as a whole.

10. FedNor

Website: www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/fednor-fednor.nsf/eng/Home

Location: Ottawa, Ontario

Focus: “FedNor is a federal regional development organization in Ontario that works with a variety of partners, as both a facilitator and catalyst, to help create an environment in which communities can thrive, businesses can grow and people can prosper.”

Activities: FedNor has funded numerous initiatives that have stimulated community economic development in Northern Ontario. FedNor boasts numerous success stories on its website. It has supported biotechnology firms (working in health sciences); the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (“first new medical school in Canada in more than 30 years”); aviation (supporting Aviation Centre of Excellence at Confederation College); e-learning (expansion of “eDome”—electronic Delivery of Modular Education—a virtual learning tool hosted by Cambrian College); telecommunications (expansion of Internet and other telecommunications to Northern Ontario First Nation communities); mining innovation (sponsoring the Northern Centre for Advanced Technology and other mining related initiatives); PARO (women’s business support network); youth (it offers a youth internship program that allows “young Northern Ontario residents to stay in the North”); nature-based tourism (“Since 1999, FedNor has invested more than \$30 million dollars in support of 200 tourism projects across the North”); tele-health (helping to finance “Picture Archiving and Communications systems, commonly referred to as PACS, allows for the central storage of digital X-ray images which are then made available electronically to geographically dispersed medical professionals”); forestry innovation (supporting research and associated economic development); heritage tourism (attracting visitors to Northern Ontario through financial assistance to heritage-based operators); and community development (supporting community business development to combat unemployment). In an analysis of the efficacy of FedNor’s activities by Industry Canada (www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ae-ve.nsf/eng/01451.html), it was determined that the “Northern Ontario Economic Development Fund (NODF) is a success.” The highlights of this report include:

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- Between 2002–06 FedNor’s NODF resources have “varied from year to year,” with a high of \$60.4 million in 2002–03 and low of \$49 million in 2003–04.
- “FedNor has contributed to the development of new business and the retention of existing businesses, . . . 1,293 businesses have been assisted (488 new ones) resulting in 6,401 jobs created or maintained . . . at least 124 new businesses were created through direct NODF project assistance resulting in at least 470 jobs created.”
- FedNor increases competitiveness in Northern Ontario businesses and assists their growth, with “increased revenues of close to \$200 thousand for the private sector organizations receiving NODF funding.”
- FedNor helps “develop human capital directly through 347 human capital projects which target youth (98 per cent), Aboriginal people (12 per cent), Francophones (6 per cent), and/or women (1 per cent).”
- Community economic development is a major area of success with “80 per cent of projects involved in community capacity outcomes (close to \$100 million in authorized assistance) . . . contributing to increasing economic activity in communities.”
- FedNor’s work spurs innovation and technological development, with 62 projects in this area, “representing close to \$25 million in authorized assistance.”

Future plans: FedNor has some new initiatives to promote community and economic health in Northern Ontario. The Community Adjustment Fund (CAF) for Ontario “will provide \$348.9 million over two years to support adjustment measures in communities affected by the global economic downturn.” It also has an Economic Development Initiative (EDI) that, by March 31, 2013, “will invest \$8.9 million . . . to support business and economic development activities that encourage sustainable growth in Ontario’s Francophone communities (the official language minority community in Ontario).” The EDI has two priority areas: Community Strategic Planning (“that enhances the economic base and competitiveness of Francophone communities and small and medium-sized enterprises) and Business and Economic Development (“ . . . fosters economic growth of Francophone communities in sectors such as Francophone tourism, cultural, knowledge-based, and manufacturing industries”). In the past six months, FedNor has issued numerous press releases about activities in Northern Ontario, including:

- August 6, 2009: \$2.4 million for community economic development and small businesses in Kenora
- August 5, 2009: \$2.6 million in support of community economic development and small business in Red Lake
- July 30, 2009: \$1.73 million for seven community economic development projects in Timmins region
- June 20, 2009: \$82,500 for youth internship placements in Parry Sound
- June 20, 2009: \$67,788 for master site and urban design plans in Port Severn
- April 28, 2009: \$22,500 for the Village of Sundridge to develop a strategic plan for economic opportunities in the region
- April 16, 2009: investments in Sault Ste Marie and Superior East region for Health Informatics Research Institute at Algoma University (\$500,000) and business development opportunities (\$1.18 million)

11. Greater Grand Sudbury Development Corporation (GSDC)

Website: <http://Sudbury.ca/home.cfm>

Location: Sudbury, Ontario

Focus: “The Greater Sudbury Development Corporation is your one stop shop for all things business related!”

Activities: The GSDC offers services related to business exporting, new business start-up assistance (e.g., loans), support programs (e.g., business and technical assistance) and planning (e.g., photos, site selection, municipal plans).

Future plans: Future economic and community development in the region.

12. Greenstone Economic Development Corporation (GEDC)

Website: www.gedc.ca

Location: Geraldton, Ontario

Focus: “The Greenstone Economic Development Corporation (GEDC) is a community-based, non-profit organization representative of the communities within the Greenstone area (Aroland First Nation, Beardmore, Caramat, Geraldton, Ginoogaming First Nation, Jellicoe, Lake Nipigon Ojibway First Nation, Longlac, Long Lake #58 First Nation, Macdiarmid, Nakina, Rocky Bay First Nation, and Orient Bay),” whose mission is to: “foster and encourage the start-up and operations of successful enterprise in all economic sectors within the Greenstone Service Aare.”

Activities: The GEDC offers a variety of business development (e.g., employment training, loan programs) and community development (e.g., property development, social and economic development, and revitalization) services. It is also a resource centre offering demographic data on the region.

Future plans: The target sectors for future business and community development include mining, green energy, manufacturing, and tourism.

13. Highway 11 Mayors’ Task Force

Website: None

Location: Communities along Ontario’s Highway 11

Focus: Since no information exists about the Highway 11 Mayors’ Task Force on the Internet, extensive telephone research was undertaken to understand the initiative. Roger Sigouin, Mayor of Hearst, was the primary informant given that he is the official chair of the Task Force. Mayor Sigouin indicated that Northern Ontario is economically depressed and he and his fellow mayors are seeking to increase business opportunities in their regions. The Task Force is trying to collectively bring attention to the plight of Northern Ontario to policymakers and bureaucrats in Southern Ontario who “don’t seem to get the message.” Forestry in the region has not been doing well recently and this has seriously impaired the economics of the Highway 11 region. The Mayors are seeking to develop silvaculture and other forestry initiatives that build on the skills and strengths of the local population. Importantly, Highway 11 itself needs drastic improvements and the mayors believe that this is an important part of the strategy to sustain the economies of the region. Overall, the initiative is designed to collaborate, build momentum, and increase the voice on common issues for the communities that are being adversely affected across the region.

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Activities: The Task Force has been meeting with ministers and other policy makers in Southern Ontario to increase the profile and awareness regarding issues affecting Northern Ontario.

Future plans: More meetings of the Task Force and advocacy work for Highway 11 communities.

14. Independent Living Sudbury/Manitoulin (ILSM)

Website: www.ilrcsudbury.ca

Location: Sudbury, Ontario

Focus: “Independent Living Sudbury Manitoulin (ILSM), which services Sudbury and Manitoulin, is a community-based, non-profit organization that is controlled by and for persons with disabilities. It is associated with 24 other Centre’s across Canada through the Canadian Association of Independent Living Resources Centres. . . . The ILSM exists to create and sustain opportunities for people with disabilities to overcome barriers and to be part of an inclusive community through an independent lifestyle.”

What has been done: ILSM achieves its mission through it’s core programs, which include Individual Advocacy (“ . . . to promote the development of self-advocacy skills”); Information and Referral (“ . . . promotes the ILRC’s programs and provides information”); Peer Support and Interaction (“ . . . to further promote concepts of independent living through peer interaction of people having similar disabilities and/or experiences”); Direct Funding (“ . . . to enable adults with physical disabilities to become employers of their own attendants”); Research and Development (“ . . . tries to identify areas where there are gaps in programs and services”); and Community Access Program (offers public-access computers, Internet, and training).

Future plans: The ILRC has just hired a new marketing coordinator who is helping with a strategic vision for the organization, which will focus on marketing and fundraising. It also just received charitable status and is in a position to research and develop new programs.

15. Kasabonika Economic Development

Website: none

Location: Kasabonika, Ontario

Focus: CCEDNET’s website (<http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/?q=en/node/3298>) indicates that the main purpose of Kasabonika Economic Development is “To develop a sustainable economy within the Kasabonika Lake First Nation with a focus on economic and business development initiatives.”

What has been done: According to CCEDNET, the organization’s activities include new business start-up and management of existing community-owned businesses; entrepreneurial development and assistance; and economic development projects and job creation.

Future plans: No information available.

16. Lakehead University Centre for Tourism and Community Development Research (Lakehead University CTCD)

Website: <http://ctcdr.lakeheadu.ca/>

Location: Thunder Bay, Ontario

Focus: “The mission of the Lakehead University CTCD is to promote balanced sustainable development in cooperation with communities and partners through involvement in interdisciplinary research, community education, and consultancy services”

Activities: The broad objectives of the CTCD include: “Exploring ways to diversify resource-based communities, . . . researching sustainable business approaches and practices, . . . designing and planning effective and appropriate tourism strategies; . . . develop[ing] capacity and support for the development of indigenous tourism; . . . community and regional land-use planning for population growth and demographic change; . . . regional coordination of community tourism development opportunities; . . . organiz[ing] and manag[ing] community workshops, academic conferences, seminars and public presentations; . . . provid[ing] data archiving and analyses; and other consultancy services to communities and agencies.”

Future plans: Future research activities that will:

- “be interdisciplinary in nature to reflect the characteristics of the complex social, environmental, and economic issues facing communities in our region;
- adopt a complex systems perspective in addressing the development of sustainable communities and businesses;
- focus on smaller communities in terms of population, services and location; and
- operate as a store front for communities to access the collective expertise of the University faculty associated with the research centre.”

”The interdisciplinary approach of the Centre is reflected in the researchers initially involved from the Faculties of Professional Schools (ORPT); Forestry and Forest Sciences, Business, Science and Environmental Studies (Geography) and we anticipate that this involvement will expand further to other Faculties and Departments as the Centre develops.”

17. Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)

Website: www.metisnation.org

Location: Ottawa, Ontario

Focus: “The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) brings Métis citizens together to celebrate and share their rich culture, heritage, and values and to forward their aspirations as a people, one of the founding Aboriginal peoples of Canada, whose Treaty and Aboriginal rights are recognized and affirmed in Canada’s Constitution. Initially formed in 1994, after a founding delegates meeting that brought together Métis people from across the Province of Ontario, the MNO is our representative body at the provincial and national levels within Canada and at the international level. Its principles are based on the right of self-determination and inherent right of self-government. The MNO strives to promote and protect the rights of its citizens, including their rights to resources and to harvesting.”

Activities: “The Métis Nation of Ontario is proud of its achievements in establishing and pushing a Métis specific agenda in Ontario. The MNO has made great strides for Métis through its pursuit of Métis hunting and fishing rights, human resource development and training, Métis bursary and scholarship programs, and the development of a Métis self-governance structure within Ontario.” The MNO has programs in the following areas:

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- employment and training (“ . . . has introduced a number of programs, which offer financial support and opportunity to Métis individuals . . .”);
- education (“ . . . education and skills development has been identified as a key priority . . . to encourage academic skills development and to enable citizens of the Métis Nation to attain their educational aspirations . . .”);
- health (“ . . . facilitate and coordinate effective activities to address the holistic needs of the Métis Nation in Ontario . . . ”);
- economic development (“ . . . Métis Nation of Ontario Economic Development initiative was established to assist Métis communities across the province in developing economic self-sufficiency . . .”);
- housing (including property management services and fee-for-service programs); and
- Community Access Program (“ . . . aims to provide Canadians with affordable public access to the Internet and skills they need to use it effectively . . .”).

Future plans: No information available.

18. National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA)

Website: www.nacca.net

Location: Ottawa, Ontario

Focus: “The National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA) is the association for a network of Aboriginal Financial Institutions (AFIs) dedicated to stimulating economic growth for Canada’s Aboriginal peoples by promoting and underwriting Aboriginal business development.”

What has been done: “AFI’s provide business financing and support to Aboriginal businesses, which can include: business loans, financial consulting services, aftercare, and start-up support. Since their inception in the late 1980’s the AFIs have provided over \$1.3 billion in financing to Aboriginal small business, which represents over 30,000 loans. NACCA supports the AFIs in their efforts by providing them with a common voice and by providing programming that supports their capacity development and professionalism as well as increasing the capital available to them.”

Future plans: No information available.

19. Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF)

Website: www.nadf.org

Location: Thunder Bay, Ontario

Focus: “Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF) is a non-profit, independent, Aboriginal-owned and -operated financial institution that provides business and financial services to Aboriginal people living in remote, non-remote, and urban communities across Northern Ontario.” Its vision is: “To be a sustainable leading Aboriginal-owned business and financial services organization.”

What has been done: “Since the organization’s inception as an Aboriginal Capital Corporation in 1987, NADF has grown in terms of its reach and variety of programs and services offered.

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Today, NADF provides business support and developmental lending services throughout the Nishnawbe Aski Nation and into the neighbouring treaty areas of Treaty # 3 and Robinson-Superior 1850, as well as Métis.” According to NADF’s website, it engages in a number of activities including:

- business financing,
- business development and support,
- youth entrepreneurship development and support,
- community economic development and support,
- resource sector support and services, and
- contribution financing through Aboriginal Business Canada.

Future plans: “NADF continues to remain committed to increasing its capacity to offer quality financial services and products, and to building strong relationships to achieve its vision of becoming a sustainable, leading Aboriginal-owned business and financial services organization.”

20. Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC)

Website: www.mndm.gov.on.ca/nohfc/

Location: Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Focus: “The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) is proud to be a vital component of the Northern Prosperity Plan. For more than 20 years, we’ve worked with Northern entrepreneurs and businesses to foster private sector job creation while supporting critical infrastructure and community development projects that build a foundation for future economic growth and enhanced quality of life.”

Activities: “The NOHFC is pleased to offer seven unique programs to help create sustainable jobs for Northerners and foster hope and opportunity across Northern Ontario.” The NOHFC programs include:

- Northern Ontario Entrepreneur program (“ . . . supports Northern entrepreneurs, with up to \$125,000 funding per project.”)
- Enterprises North Job Creation (“ . . . provides financial assistance to the private sector to help bring new jobs and economic prosperity to the North.”)
- Emerging Technology (“ . . . designed to encourage both the private and public sectors to develop exciting and viable new technologies that will contribute to future Northern prosperity.”)
- Infrastructure and Community Development (“ . . . helps Northern communities make the investments necessary to improve critical infrastructure and develop partnerships that find effective ways to create and improve economic prospects in the North.”)
- Northern Ontario Young Entrepreneur (“ . . . aims to mobilize a new generation of entrepreneurs and community builders in the North, securing a more prosperous future for tomorrow’s Northern families and workers.”)
- Youth Internship and Co-op (“ . . . young Northerners will have access to work placements and internships that will serve as a springboard to rewarding and successful careers.”)
- Northern Energy (“ . . . designed to help Northern organizations to capitalize on energy opportunities, pursue clean alternatives and reduce their demand on external energy sources.”)

Future plans: The agency seems to be driven by the Government of Ontario's Northern Prosperity Plan (available at http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/docs/NPP_2007_e.pdf), which was launched in 2004. This plan "weaves together a range of provincial initiatives in the North and in Ontario's minerals sector to drive job creation, economic growth and competitiveness, and the participation of Northerners in charting their own future."

21. Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge Institute (NORDIK)

Website: www.nordikinstitute.com

Location: Algoma University, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Focus: ". . . a research institute for the purpose of promoting more vibrant, caring, and sustainable communities through research, dialogue, analysis, and reflection dedicated to the practice of holistic community development." The Institute's focus areas are regional development and indigenous communities. This organization is holistic in its approach, seeking community-university partnerships, and offering participatory methods to ensure community support and capacity building.

Activities: NORDIK's 2007/2008 annual report, available on its website, indicates that the organization offers mentoring and developing research capacity and has "provided internships and coop/field placements for ten students, and . . . research training to over twenty-five community-based researchers located in First Nations communities." The academics that are part of the institute have completed a number of research projects related to community development, social enterprise, health, tourism, and culture.

Future plans: NORDIK's long-term objectives are to:

- "build Northern Ontario's capacity to conduct research;
- conduct research that contributes to social and economic justice for Northern Ontario communities;
- provide evidence for informed policy and decision-making; and
- focus on indigenous, rural and Northern communities."

22. Northern Ontario School of Medicine Community Development Program (NOSM)

Website: <http://www.normed.ca/communities/general.aspx?id=1620>

Location: Laurentian University, Thunder Bay, Ontario

Focus: "The Northern Ontario Community Development Program is administered by the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM). The program assists communities in the recruitment and retention of a full range of health care professionals; helps practitioners with their relocation choices; and encourages learners to pursue health-related careers in Northern Ontario."

Activities: "The team, which consists of a Community Development Manager and Community Development Coordinators, meets regularly with health-care practitioners, educators, professional associations, community members, elected officials, and Ministry staff to identify human resources needed and to determine the best approaches to serve those needs at the regional

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level. . . . The program coordinates the following initiatives for all communities in Northern Ontario:

- information dissemination to all underserved area programs;
- alternative payment plan opportunities;
- sessional fees;
- community incentives on a regional and provincial basis;
- meeting with groups and individuals regularly to assist in the development and planning of a successful recruitment and retention campaign;
- just-in-time customized training workshops that focus on the techniques to ensure success in recruitment and retention efforts; and
- development of promotional materials and resources that reflect the uniqueness and strengths of each community and how to build on them.”

Future plans: No information available.

23. North South Climate Change Network (NSCCN)

Website: www.nscn.ca

Location: Sudbury, Ontario

Focus: “The North South Climate Change Network (NSCCN) is a collaboration between the Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources (OCCIAR) at Laurentian University in Sudbury and the Clean Air Partnership (CAP) in the City of Toronto. This project has been made possible through a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation’s Future Fund, which was created to enhance the future of Ontario’s communities. The goal of the NSCCN is to improve the province’s knowledge of, and preparedness for climate change. Through the creation of partnerships with stakeholder groups, the network will foster a learning environment where participants within Ontario will learn about climate change impacts, share strategies, and solutions.”

Activities: “The role of the NSCCN is to:

- enhance existing and foster new relationships with a variety of stakeholder groups;
- identify and support the participants’ common climate change goals;
- overcome the piecemeal nature of climate change response planning in Ontario by identifying common strategies, sharing regional progress, and updating the group on best practices and other activities;
- develop and disseminate resource material, programs, and contacts pertaining to climate change impacts, vulnerabilities, and adaptation;
- e-host and create a webpage with pertinent and up-to-date information on climate change impacts and adaptation; and
- evaluate the development and impact of the NSCCN project.”

Future plans: No information available.

24. North-South Partnership for Children

Website: www.northsouthpartnership.com

Location: Toronto, Ontario

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Focus: “Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win/The North-South Partnership for Children is a developing partnership that represents the coming together of First Nation Chiefs, Elders, youth, and community members living in remote communities in Northwestern Ontario and caring individuals and voluntary organizations based in southern Ontario. The Partnership was formed in 2006 to improve the quality of life of children and youth in remote First Nations communities, by building a larger circle of caring for the children and their families.” The vision for the organization is “A future where children, youth, and families in the remote First Nation communities have their basic needs met and opportunities to achieve their full potential while embracing their culture and heritage as Aboriginal people.”

Activities: The organizations offers support to children and families through the following program areas:

- basics for daily life
- youth and children
- housing and infrastructure
- healing and treatment
- communications

The organization also helps partner organizations develop need-based assessment for communities. Publications are made available online through the website. Major goals are information sharing among partners, networking, and “approaching governments, volunteer agencies, foundations, service clubs, educational institutions, and corporations, along with other potential contributors for the resources required to address identified needs.”

Future plans: No information available.

25. Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)

Website: www.noma.on.ca

Location: Thunder Bay, Ontario

Focus: “The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) was organized in 1946, incorporated on September 18th 2001, and is made up of four components. These are the Kenora District Municipal Association, the Rainy River District Municipal Association, the Thunder Bay District Municipal League and the City of Thunder Bay. . . . The objects of the Association are to consider matters of general interest to the municipalities and to procure enactment of such legislation that may be of advantage to the municipalities in Northwestern Ontario and to take united action on all matters where the rights of the municipalities may be affected to advance the standards of municipal government through education and discussion and generally to promote their interests.”

Activities: NOMA is a planning organization that holds meetings throughout the year about its business and an annual general meeting. It appears, based on their website, that it uses these meeting to organize and lobby on behalf of the various municipalities that make up its membership.

Future plans: NOMA is planning the 27th Annual Northwestern Ontario Regional Conference. This event will be taking place September 30 to October 2, 2009, in Thunder Bay, Ontario. This

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communities-focused conference will discuss topics such as Managing Shrinking Communities, Green Energy, Modernization of Ontario's Mining Act, Northern Growth Plan, and Affordable Housing.

26. Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition (OHCC)

Website: www.ohcc-ccso.ca/en

Location: Toronto, Ontario, but servicing the entire province

Focus: "OHCC is an incorporated registered charity, whose mission is to work with the diverse communities of Ontario to strengthen their social, environmental, and economic well-being. . . . We bring together a broad-based group of community and provincial associations, spanning the social, environmental, economic, and political spectrums. OHCC members share a common goal of creating healthier communities, and they actively support the Healthy Communities network by sharing their knowledge, skills, and experiences with others."

Activities: The OHCC uses telephone and web-conferencing to offer learning workshops for its members. It currently has a "Healthy Communities and the Built Environment" project that brings together ". . . planners, developers, public health staff, environmental groups, and community associations to develop strategies that will improve the design of their communities from a health perspective." It oversees the FoodNet Ontario project, which ". . . is a province-wide network of organizations and individuals committed to achieving community food security and creating sustainable local food systems." OHCC tracks healthy community issues in Northern Ontario and this information is posted at <http://www.ohcc-ccso.ca/en/tags/northern-ontario>. The OHCC's website has excellent webtools posted for health food, proposal writing, creating community organizations, and more.

Future plans: OHCC will be having their upcoming Annual General Meeting September 25, 2009, in St. Catharines, Ontario.

27. Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry

Website: http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/default_e.asp

Location: Toronto and Thunder Bay, Ontario

Focus: "The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry serves this region and the province's minerals industry. We deliver provincial government programs and services in Northern Ontario."

Activities: This department is responsible for mining and geology in Ontario and economic and community development in the North. The "Northern Development Division delivers programs and services across Northern Ontario that help our economy and our communities prosper and grow." The four service nodes of this division focus on "Business Support" (e.g., financial and professional support programs), "Community Support" (e.g., funding and employment training), "Support for Youth" (e.g., career planning), and "Transportation and Road" (supporting "the economic and social lifelines of this expansive region. . .").

Future plans: The Ministry has a "Growth Plan for Northern Ontario" that they are continuing to work on with stakeholders. "More than 1,700 Northerners have already provided input to the

plan through one of 13 regional sessions and more than 30 other meetings, workshops and conferences. Overall activities include highway development and expansion, employment and program funding for community and economic development, harm reduction initiatives for violence against women, mining and geoscience support and promotion, and Aboriginal engagement.”

28. Ontario Social Economy Roundtable (OSER)

Website: in the planning stage

Location: CCEDNET, Ontario

Focus: Based on CCEDNET’s website (www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/?q=en/node/5851), The Ontario Social Economy Roundtable “. . . is a collective of independent and connected organizations interested in facilitating a conversation about growing Ontario’s Social Economy.”

Activities: This appears to be a new initiative and very little work has been completed to date.

Future plans: They are currently hiring a project manager through the Canadian Community Economic Development Network. Based on the CCEDNET link above, this project manager would create a website, organize a committee, broaden the Roundtable’s general membership, work on discussion papers, and prepare regional meetings about the work.

29. PARO Centre For Women’s Enterprise

Website: www.paro.ca

Location: Thunder Bay, Ontario

Focus: “We are a not-for-profit and grassroots organization that remains focused on addressing the many unique challenges facing women as entrepreneurs and primary family caregivers, . . . programs and services to meet the changing socio-economic environments of our communities, and the growing needs and aspirations of women in Northern Ontario. . . . we seek to empower women within their communities, strengthen small business, and promote community economic development (CED) through integrated and women-centered program delivery. From training and business coaching, to networking events and peer lending circles, all our innovative programs and services are designed to increase the self-sufficiency and success of women, families, and communities in the North.”

What has been done: PARO offers business development counseling, peer-lending funds and fundraising workshops, professional development and training, networking opportunities, and office facilities and computer access. It also has a mobile resource vehicle, which allows training and information sharing across the region. It has an online Northern Opportunities for Women resource centre, which offers research publications, newsletters, and links for community economic development. In its 2008 annual report (available on the website), PARO indicates that since 1995, 1,285 women entrepreneurs have completed its Business Development Program, and that in 2008 it created networking opportunities for 3,847 women, up 704 people from the previous year.

Future plans: No information available.

30. Rainy Lake Tribal Area: Business and Financial Services Corporation

Website: <http://rlta.ca/>

Location: Fort Francis, Ontario

Focus: “We are [a] self-recognized Aboriginal Financial Institution lending to our business community to start, expand, modernize, or support their business need.” Its mission is “To operate as an Aboriginal-owned and -controlled organization in providing financing to First Nation businesses, as well as to deliver business support services, business planning services, and training and mentoring, while recognizing the challenges facing First Nations people in raising capital due to land tenure restrictions.”

What has been done: The organization has three “lending products” including a micro-loan program (used to finance initial operations), an enhanced-access loan (for established businesses), and the Futures Fund (for well-established businesses seeking expansion). Various training and mentorship services and workshops are also available through the organization.

Future plans: No information available.

31. Rainy River Future Development Corporation (RRFDC)

Website: www.rrfdc.on.ca

Location: Fort Francis, Ontario

Focus: “The Rainy River Future Development Corporation is a membership-drive, non-profit, community-based corporation. . . . RRFDC wants to encourage and assist with community development throughout the Rainy River District.”

Activities: The RRFDC offers a variety of business (e.g., loans, training, research and employment resources), community (e.g., project support, networking, and partnerships), and economic (e.g., economic data, impact analysis, and site inventory) development services.

Future plans: No information available.

32. Sioux Lookout Economic Development Commission

Website: www.siouxlookout.ca/townhall/departments/ecdev

Location: Sioux Lookout, Ontario

Focus: “The Mayor and Council of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout formed an Economic Development Commission in July 2007 with a specific mandate and Terms of Reference. . . . The Economic Development Commission is structured in three sub-committees: The Urban Reserve Sub-Committee; The Community Revitalization Sub-Committee; and The Planning and Promotions Sub-Committee.”

Activities: “The Urban Reserve Sub-Committee has been working in partnership with the Sioux Lookout Area Chief’s to investigate the establishment of an Urban Reserve within the Municipality. . . . The Community Revitalization Sub-Committee has spearheaded Community Pitch-In and is involved in the Train Station and Centennial Park redevelopment, Municipal Logo redesign, gateway signs, and improvements to the CN underpass. . . . The Planning and

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Promotions Sub-Committee is working on marketing Sioux Lookout locally, regionally, and internationally to identify, promote and cultivate our community and niche markets; and further enhance our image and quality of life.”

Future plans: “The EDC is partnering with the 29 Area Chiefs to host a three-day Economic Development Summit in Sioux Lookout November 17 to 19, 2009. The Urban Reserve initiative will be further discussed as well as other opportunities for economic development including, mining, value-added forestry, and bio-energy.”

33. Sudbury Action Centre for Youth (SACY)

Website: www.sacy.ca

Location: Sudbury, Ontario

Focus: “The Sudbury Action Centre for Youth is a non-profit, charitable organization that has been providing essential services to at-risk youth for the past 20 years. We have been recognized both locally and nationally for our contribution toward the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, homelessness, and employment.” In 2006, SACY won the Donner Canadian Foundation Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services.

Activities: SACY has an “Action Centre for Youth,” which “. . . provides a drop-in where youth are able to gather for support, socialization, and recreation. Youth have access to crisis intervention, counseling and referral services, as well as support groups that help them deal with such issues as anger and addiction.” SACY youth programs include mentorship, awareness group, employment, harm reduction, and housing.

Future plans: Ongoing youth programming. This fall they have a “Back to School Blitz” that will help establish goal setting and provide motivational teachings for youth returning to school in the fall.

34. The Northwest Business Centre (NWBC)

Website: www.nwbiz.ca/

Location: Kenora, Ontario

Focus: “The Northwest Business Centre is a provincial small business assistance centre developed in cooperation with the province, municipality, and private sector. Our mission is to empower entrepreneurs with the skills, advice, and resources needed to succeed in small business. Our services are free and are available to all community members including business owners, prospective entrepreneurs, youth, Aboriginal and other minority groups, and people in certain government programs.”

Activities: “The Northwest Business Centre provides free professional confidential consulting. The NWBC offers one-on-one support that connects you with resources from the private sector and all levels of government—municipal, provincial, and federal. . . . Our key services, free to the community, include:

- reviews of business plans and strategies
- advice on purchase of existing businesses
- advice on operating challenges in existing businesses

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- preparation of loan requests
- small business workshops and seminars
- industry networks and trade contracts
- and much more!”

Future plans: Continuation of their programs.

35. Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC)

Website: www.thunderbay.ca/CEDC.htm

Location: Thunder Bay, Ontario

Focus: “Incorporated in December 2006, CEDC is an arms-length Community Development Corporation, led by an independent board with core funding from the City of Thunder Bay. . . . CEDC receives formal proposals on projects that will contribute to economic development. It responds quickly to new opportunities and initiatives to attract direct financial involvement from government and private sectors.”

Activities: The CEDC offers support for community information and statistics, networking and referrals, assistance in site selections, and labour market data. It is responsible for “business development, business retention and expansion, entrepreneurial support, opportunity promotion, and collection and assessment of key business data.”

Future plans: Continuing to offer support to local business community seems to be major and ongoing priority.

36. Thunders Bay Ventures: Community Futures Development Corporation

Website: www.thunderbayventures.com

Location: Thunder Bay, Ontario

Focus: “We are a non-profit organization committed to fostering community economic development in Thunder Bay and region. . . . We finance new businesses and expansions, provide business services and referrals, and fund economic development projects in the Thunder Bay Census Metropolitan Area.”

Activities: This organization helps with business planning through information sharing, networking opportunities, and funding.

Future plans: Their goal is “to be a proactive community-based organization which supports economic development.”

37. Timmins Economic Development Corporation:

Website: www.timmisedc.com

Location: Timmins, Ontario

Focus: The mission statement of the organization is “to promote quality of life through community development; to secure and support new and existing business and community

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initiatives; and to enhance sustainable development and the environment thereby creating employment for the people who live or plan to live in Timmins.”

Activities: “We provide bilingual services and are a one-stop source of market information for business and industry.”

Future plans: No information available.

38. Union of Ontario Indians (UOI)

Website:

http://www.anishinabek.ca/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=56&Itemid=37

Location: North Bay, Ontario

Focus: “The Anishinabek Nation incorporated the Union of Ontario Indians (UOI) as its secretariat in 1949. The UOI is a political advocate for 42 member First Nations across Ontario. The Union of Ontario Indians is the oldest political organization in Ontario and can trace its roots back to the Confederacy of Three Fires, which existed long before European contact. The UOI represents 42 First Nations throughout the province of Ontario from Golden Lake in the east, to Sarnia in the south, and Thunder Bay and Lake Nipigon in the north. The 42 First Nations have an approximate combined population of 42,000 citizens, one-third of the province of Ontario’s Aboriginal population. The Anishinabek Nation has four strategic regional areas Southwest, Southeast, Lake Huron, and Northern Superior and each region is represented by a Regional Grand Chief.”

Activities: “The UOI delivers a variety of programs and services, such as Health, Social Services, Education, Intergovernmental Affairs, and Treaty Research, and does this with a compliment of approximately 70 staff members. The UOI provides the necessary forum for collective First Nation actions on housing and other issues through their Chiefs in Assembly, and direction to the Grand Council Chief by way of resolution.”

Future plans: Continued representation and advocacy on behalf of their people. They plan to:

- "conduct, hold and promote meetings and conferences to determine and express common needs and concerns of First Nations in Ontario;
- foster, advance, and stimulate interest in, and promote the preservation and development of the history and Native culture of First Nations and the commencement and the maintenance of programs for the conservation thereof, by such means as may from time to time seem expedient, including research, publication, education and the establishment and maintenance of educational activities, agencies or institutions and the aid of such activities, agencies or institutions already established;
- maintain and secure, by social, educational, and political action, fulfillment of all First Nations Treaties and Treaty Rights;
- promote legislation affecting the rights of First Nations: to oppose or support, as the case may be, any contemplated legislation by federal, provincial, municipal, or other authorities, insofar as the same may affect the rights of all First Nations;
- endeavor to achieve a closer relationship and better understanding among the various branches of government (federal, provincial, and municipal) and the First Nations people, their needs and concerns;

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- receive and maintain funding and the right to apply, from time to time, all or part thereof funds for the attainment of the above objectives; and
- represent the membership in Constitutional discussions and negotiations, which ultimately will provide the federal/provincial governments [with] the wisdom to see First Nations exercise their right of self-government."

39. Wakenagun Community Futures Development Corporation (Wakenagun CFDC)

Website: www.wakenagun.ca

Location: Moose Factory, Ontario

Focus: "Wakenagun CFDC is a federally incorporated not-for-profit Community Futures Development Corporation. . . . Today, in partnership with FedNor/Industry Canada, we service seven First Nation communities along the Western James and Hudson Bay coast and three inland communities further south of James Bay. This is the traditional home of the First Nations people who call this region "Mushkegowuk."

Activities: "Our mission is to support community economic development for our First Nation members through: business financing; strategic planning for communities; and business support, counseling, and advisory services."

Future plans: No information available.

40. Waubetek Business Development Corporation

Website: www.waubetek.com

Location: Birch Island, Ontario

Focus: "The Waubetek Business Development Corporation is an Aboriginal-owned and -controlled organization that delivers business financing and economic development services to First Nations and Aboriginal entrepreneurs in North-Eastern Ontario. Our goal is to assist in strengthening the economies of the local First Nations, as well as this whole region of Ontario, through business and community development."

Activities: Waubetek offers a diversity of financial and community support services including: commercial financing (" . . . financial assistance to establish or expand your business"); business counseling services (" . . . experienced staff available to provide guidance and review your proposals"); general advisory assistance (" . . . regarding community projects"); and a Local Initiatives Fund (" . . . funds to support the local /regional community economic development initiatives").

Future plans: Continued support for business, economic, and community development in their service area.

41. Wawatay Native Communications Society

Website: http://www.wawataynews.ca/about_wawatay

Location: Sioux Lookout, Timmins and Thunder Bay

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Focus: "...serves the communication needs of First Nations people and communities of Nishnawbe Aski Nation. It does this through the distribution of a bi-weekly newspaper, daily radio programming, television production services, and a multimedia website that seeks to preserve and enhance indigenous languages and cultures of Aboriginal people in Northern Ontario. Established in 1974, Wawatay also provides translation and interpretation services. Currently, Wawatay employs 33 people—31 are of Aboriginal descent."

Activities: Wawatay was incorporated in 1974 and turned the previous *Keesis* newsletter into *Wawatay News* and assists in the development of a community radio station in Big Trout Lake. Throughout the 1970s, they were instrumental in setting up community radio stations throughout Northern Ontario, and in the early 1980s, Wawatay expanded into Aboriginal-content television for the region. In the 1990s, Wawatay expanded its radio and television programming and began online distribution of their Aboriginal-specific news content. In 2007, *Wawatay News Online* was officially launched.

Future plans: Wawatay's mission is "To provide media capabilities and content that addresses the unique needs of the Nishnawbe people." Based on their history, it appears that Wawatay will continue to promote indigenous culture and news in whatever media format is available to them.



Centre for the North

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Anne Golden

President and Chief Executive Officer

E-mail: golden@conferenceboard.ca

Tel.: 613-526-3090 ext. 378

Fax: 613-521-4922

Gilles Rhéaume

Vice-President, Public Policy

E-mail: rheaume@conferenceboard.ca

Tel.: 613-526-3090 ext. 325

Fax: 613-526-4857

The Conference Board of Canada
Insights You Can Count On



255 Smyth Road, Ottawa ON K1H 8M7 Canada
Tel. 613-526-3280 • Fax 613-526-4857 • Inquiries 1-866-711-2262

www.conferenceboard.ca