



UGPI'GANJIG

EEL RIVER BAR FIRST NATION

July 10, 2018

Telimatl

Edition 1, vol 2
www.ugpi-ganjig.ca

Inu'sgw

By Sacha LaBillois, Director of Economic Development

Each edition of this newsletter will focus on economic development from a different perspective. This edition will focus on the strength and drive of the women in our community as they help shape our economy. In this era of #metoo and #timesup, women are proving that their voices are powerful. As women continue to speak up, we must all listen. It is an empowering time for women and change is on the horizon. We are seeing decades old injustices being rectified - this edition discusses the Superior Court of Quebec's decision in Descheneux and the fight for gender equality for First Nations women under the Indian Act. We are also witnessing a shift in the way women influence and lead our economy - this edition also provides our readers with insight from two women who live in Eel River Bar. The interviews focus on their view of economic development and what that means from the female perspective.

Women are forging forward as entrepreneurs, as leaders and as integral parts of the family unit. In 2018 we are

watching as women take centre stage. Their passion, drive and vision are inspiring and we dedicate this edition to those women who lent us their shoulders to stand on, those women who reach for the stars and to those women who will come after us - may we light the way for your success Inu'sgw is the Mi'gmaq word for "First Nations woman". She is mighty, she is smart and she may just hold the key to economic development success. I hope you enjoy this edition.



Descheneux Decision

Impact on Economic Development

The Quebec Superior Court's decision in this case found sections 6(1)(a), (c) and (f) and 6(2) of the Indian Act, which define who is and who is not eligible for registration, were discriminatory provisions on the basis of sex. Those sections were deemed inoperative and the court allowed the Government of Canada 18 months to enact new legislation.

Prior to 1985, First Nations women who had married out, lost their status as opposed to men who married out. In 1985, the legislation changed and many women who had lost their status were reinstated however, provisions contained a cut-off determination. The "Second Generation Cut-off" provision was not challenged in the Mclvor decision, however, the gender implications of the provision were. In the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in Mclvor, the court instructed the Government of Canada to again fix the offending legislation. Bill C-3 was the result and the change ensured that status was equally transmitted to offspring despite the gender

of the parent who had status.

This brings us to the current changes being contemplated as a result of the Descheneux decision. The plaintiffs argued that the Act still perpetuated differential treatment based on gender. Specifically, that first cousins experienced different treatment for registration depending on the gender of their status grandparent where that grandparent married out before 1985. Additionally, the plaintiffs argued that siblings experienced different treatment depending on if they were a male and female child born out of wedlock between 1951 and 1985. This unequal treatment has resulted in an unbalanced ability to pass along status. The Canadian Government is currently working on the legislative changes and they are due to be introduced in the coming months. This has the possibility of affecting more than 1 million people. Having more and more of our people with status will have an impact on many aspects of economic development. Given the impact these changes could have on our population, we are watching the process carefully.

Generational Path

Economic Development can mean different things to different generations.

In an effort to understand what the future holds for Eel River Bar First Nation, we sat down and spoke with two women from different generations in an effort to understand what economic development means.

The path for each generation will be travelled in a different way and at a different pace but in our community many of the hopes and dreams are shared despite age.

Judy Labillois, Eel River Bar Elder

I moved here when I was two months old. So I guess you could say this has been my home for a long time. The term "elder" has a very specific meaning and I wouldn't consider myself an "elder" but I am of an age that makes me older! So I suppose I can give you the elder/older perspective.

This community has had a history of watching our people leave to find work and find a place in the world. Sometimes they come back, but sometimes they don't. My desire has always been to see our community be one where people stay and they prosper. It's not about "just getting by" – we need to thrive. Perhaps someday we will have an economy that demands resources from outside of our community. To make that happen, there needs to be involvement from all ages, but most

importantly we need to encourage our youth to get educated and to bring their skills, trades and knowledge to our community.

I feel like we are on the verge of a breakthrough. It's that feeling of standing on the edge of the cliff getting ready to fly. I know good things are coming. It may not happen in my lifetime, but I have hopes and dreams that it will become a reality for future generations.



Women's Employability & Wellness Conference

April 7, 2018 at the Aboriginal Heritage Gardens

This all-day event was the first of its kind for Eel River Bar First Nation. The invitation was extended to community members and we were pleased to have 25 women participate. Through funding provided by Indigenous Services Canada and donations from Eel River Bar First Nation band, Joint Economic Development Initiative and Connexion Marketing, we were able to offer interactive workshops on resume writing, interview prep, personal budgeting, and business plan writing. We would like to thank our keynote speaker, Victoria LaBillois Mitchell who is an entrepreneur from Listuguj Quebec and is the owner of Wejuseg Construction, <http://wejuseg.com/who-we-are/>. Her story is one of hard work and determination. It was inspiring to hear.

The goal of the event was to encourage and empower our female leaders. So in addition to employment skill building,



Generational Paths

Brienne Simonson, Eel River Bar Member

I was born here but have travelled a lot - funny thing is I always come back home. I am expecting my second child on Valentine's day. I am about to become a mom to two kids who are only 16 months apart. Raising these two in my community is both comforting and concerning. I work in the housing department and see the issues surrounding housing conditions and availability for my people. To have the community stay together when we can't even find enough housing poses some problems. But these problems are not ones that can't be solved.

I look at our potential as a community and want so much for Eel River Bar. For example, the Heritage Gardens would be a wonderful place to host weddings and parties for those outside of our community. We need to broaden our horizons. In my eyes there is a difference between being supported and being dependant. I want my kids to grow up knowing this community, our band is there for support but I want them to have a life where they are self-sufficient.

Our community is there to lift one another up so that we can achieve greater things, not just a safety net for when we fall. That's why I feel so strongly that my generation needs to become innovative and entrepreneurial. We need to be the job creators for generations to come. When we are driving the economy we are in a better position to help ourselves.



the day also included fitness activities such as yoga by Amanda Hill Harquail, Bonnie's Tabata Fitness with Bonnie Alexander and self defence class by Adam Kennedy from Sma'knis Maritime Safety & Security Inc. We were also fortunate to include two painting workshops: stencilling with Anita Ward Boyle from Metepenagiag First Nation and painting with Tracey Metallic from Listuguj.

We would like to extend thanks to the following partners: Smoke on the Water Smokehouse Food, JEDI, Ulnooweg, CBDC Women in Business, our trade show participants and those who donated prizes. It was a great day, with a wonderful group of inspiring supportive women. We hope to include more events like this in the future - we will keep you posted on our upcoming activities.





Ulnooweg offers a variety of business loans to meet the diverse needs of our clients, with a range of interest rates and repayment periods. You can apply for one or a combination of the following loans.

Depending on your situation and unique needs, you may qualify for loans from \$5,000 up to \$250,000. We also welcome community based projects to apply for this program.

MICRO LOAN

Who can apply?

Aboriginal business owners who have an annual income of \$15,000 or less.

What can the loan be used for?

This loan is used to support entrepreneurs in sustaining their small business.

How much can you get?

Up to \$5,000 repayable over a maximum of 24 months.

ULNOOWEG LOAN

Who can apply?

Aboriginal business owners residing and operating in Atlantic Canada and Atlantic Canada Aboriginal Organizations.

What can the loan be used for?

New business start-ups, purchase of existing businesses, business expansion, working capital, refinancing and more.

How much can you get?

Between \$5,000 and \$250,000, depending on your diverse situation and unique needs.

Meet our Team

Keshia Moffat, Junior Economic Development Officer

In 2016 Keshia was hired as Eel River Bar's Junior Economic Development Officer under JEDI's Indigenous Internship Program. Her role is to assist the team with planning, funding identification, business coaching and community outreach for economic development news. While working with our office, Keshia is also pursuing her Masters of Science in Environmental Practice focusing on environmental and ecosystem management. Applying her environmental science background, Keshia has been instrumental in providing guidance on environmental stewardship in our community - a vital part of responsible economic development. Her ambition and drive have been an asset to the community and we are proud to have her on our team.



Mario Lapointe,

Director of Housing & Infrastructure

Although Mario is the head of Eel River Bar's Housing & Infrastructure Department he plays an instrumental role with Economic Development's initiatives, such as the Wigwam Panel Project. Mario's experience, knowledge and skill set has been a great asset to our team and we appreciate the time and effort he contributes to our projects.



If you are interested in contributing to upcoming newsletters or have questions or comments, please contact us

Sacha LaBillois

Director of Economic Development
Eel River Bar First Nation
11 Main Street, Unit 201

Eel River Bar First Nation New Brunswick, E8C 1A1
p. 506-684-6286 f. 506-684-6283 sacha.labillois@eelriverbar.ca

