

Welcome

We are pleased to present the Summer 2010 edition of the Urban Aboriginal Economic Development National Network newsletter. We hope that this quarterly newsletter will help to keep you informed about network activities and opportunities. If you have any comments on how we can improve the newsletter or any news that you would like us to include in our next issue, feel free to contact the coordinator at uaed@abdc.bc.ca.

About the National Network:

The Urban Aboriginal Economic Development National Network is an open and inclusive multi-stakeholder network of researchers and practitioners working in urban Aboriginal and Métis communities. This includes organizations, universities, federal/ provincial/ municipal and Aboriginal governments, private industry, community groups, and NGO's. The network's focus is on mobilizing economic development knowledge and strengthening organizational capacity.

Network News:

Hello,

We are pleased to provide the most recent version of the Urban Aboriginal Economic Development Newsletter. Updates in the newsletter touch upon our Learning Circle work, background research, improvements to the website, and a brief report on the academic meeting held recently in Regina.

As the UAED Network enters its third year of activities, we are very pleased at the growth of the Learning Circles, the materials being assembled in support of a new agenda for urban Aboriginal economic development research, practice and policy. As we continue to work towards the Fall 2010 network gathering in Ottawa, all of these initiatives will continue to provide energy and food for thought. For academic participants, we hope that you were able to catch the presentation by Charles Horn at the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences in Montreal this June. We will be posting the presentation onto our network website soon

Ray Gerow and Greg Halseth

Academic Workshop in Regina

The UAED network hosted a workshop of academic participants in Regina on April 29-30, 2010. Despite a snow storm in Calgary that prevented some from attending, we were still able to host 12 people along with a guest videoconference visit by Christine Sy from Trent University. A variety of presentations were made respecting research projects underway by faculty members and by student researchers. These presentations supported an exciting dialogue and sharing process that helped everyone in moving forward with both individual and collective research on urban Aboriginal economic development matters. A very fruitful set of discussions were also held respecting the recently released Aboriginal Peoples Survey. Another special event was our chance to share dinner with the Regina Learning Circle.



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Thank you to Bob Anderson from the University of Regina and Bettina Schneider from the First Nations University of Canada for all of their work in hosting us in Regina.

One of the first products from this discussion involves a list of key research topics. These Emerging UAED Research Themes include:

- Urban Reserves
- Finances
 - Personal education
 - Business supports and information
- Food
 - Health, costs, social enterprises, control
 - Including basics on building gardens and planting appropriate vegetables
- Health and Wellness
- Community Development as a Foundation to Local Economic Development
- Governance
- Social Economy Businesses
- Housing
 - Affordability
 - Care and maintenance
 - Financing, mortgage access, etc.
- Emergence of an Aboriginal Middle Class

Finally, there was discussion about a framework for the next major research grant process for the UAED Network. More information on this framework will be distributed across the Network in the near future.

[Student Projects](#)

- [An Analysis of Urban Food Security Initiatives in Winnipeg](#)
- [Anishinaabe Pedagogy: Deconstructing the Notion of Aboriginal Education by Illuminating Local Anishinaabe Pedagogy](#)

Applications can now be submitted for student RA-ships in the fall 2010 semester.

Network Gathering

There is an upcoming network gathering next November in Ottawa, information and invitations will be provided to the network participants closer to the date.

Website Updates

The website has been updated, here are some links of interest:

[Links](#): This page takes you to links of interest, including Organizations, Agencies, Network Partners and Data.

[Harvest](#): this includes Urban Aboriginal Economic Development Background Briefs, Urban Aboriginal Economic Development News Releases, Urban Aboriginal Economic Development Research Reports, Urban Aboriginal Economic Development Student Projects, Urban Aboriginal Governance Research, and Other Urban Aboriginal Research.

[Other Aboriginal Research/ Practice Networks](#)

Learning Circle News

The Learning Circle page has been updated and can be found [here](#):

- [Vancouver Learning Circle Update](#)
- [Victoria Learning Circle Report](#)
- [Sault Ste. Marie Learning Circle Update](#)
- [Halifax Learning Circle Update](#)

Information: Conferences, Publications and Practices

Conferences

Engaging Indigenous Communities: Research, Rebellions and Resurgence

Aug. 9-13, 2010, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

The conference is being undertaken in honour of the 1850 Robinson Treaties. The vision of the Anishinabeg leaders to protect their heritage and resources while sharing with the newcomers remains relevant today. Contact between different peoples has resulted in peaceful interactions, uneasy relations, war and genocide. Recognizing the autonomy of nations to determine their futures, including the allocation of resources, or the lack of such recognition, has sometimes been mediated by various types of agreements and treaties. It is through access to, or exploitation of resources, that the colonial project has had the greatest affect on Indigenous peoples and Indigenous peoples on the colonial project. The focus of the conference will be on exploring Indigenous peoples' perspectives on resources and the moments in history when Indigenous peoples have fought to protect them.

Contact: eicrr@gmail.com

For more information: <http://abdc.bc.ca/uaed/networking/conferences/>

Publications

Are there lessons from the "Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development" that could be applied to urban Aboriginal economic development in Canadian centres? This document investigates if the Harvard findings can be applied to the urban Aboriginal community in Canada.

Bringing Housing Home: Researching Aboriginal Housing Authorities & Assessing the Feasibility for BC This report is Phase 2 of an examination of one or more Aboriginal Housing Authorities for B.C. Phase 1 was research into models of Aboriginal housing authorities. Diagrams of these models can be found in Appendix 1. This Phase 2 report addresses the political, organizational and financial feasibility of establishing one or more Aboriginal Housing Authorities in British Columbia. To assess the feasibility we conducted interviews and held focus groups that were attended by Aboriginal leaders, housing managers and portfolio holders, and senior government agency representatives. Those surveyed are listed within the report. For the complete document:

In future issues of the newsletter, this section will be an interactive space for Network participants.

Participants will have the opportunity to share a story with the rest of the network.

If you would like to submit a story to be included in the next newsletter, please email the coordinator at uaed@abdc.bc.ca

[Could "Clusters" be a Useful Model to Support Urban Aboriginal Economic Development?](#) Written by John McBride & UAED National Network Advisory Committee. This paper examines whether using the 'business cluster' strategy would be successful for supporting urban Aboriginal economic development. For the complete document:

[Key Research Issues in Urban Aboriginal Economic Development](#) This paper is intended to guide network discussions by identifying an initial set of issues which arise from the academic literature on urban Aboriginal communities. The paper is organized around a series of contexts that confront those as they work to develop their economies, participate in the wage economy, and develop a business sector. These include the socio-demographic context, the jurisdictional context, the policy context, the institutional context and the program context.

For each section, an attempt is made to set out the key strategic questions or issues facing communities, and the key research questions that are generated by our current state of knowledge about urban Aboriginal communities. For the complete document:

[Minding Our Own Businesses: How To Create Support In First Nations Communities for Native Businesses](#) This document summarizes what other First Nations have done and what your community could do to create a supportive climate for Aboriginal entrepreneurs. For the complete document:

[True to Their Visions: An Account of Ten Successful Aboriginal Businesses](#) Successful Aboriginal businesses create wealth and jobs in Aboriginal communities and Canada at large. This report profiles ten successful First Nation, Inuit and Métis businesses from across Canada and highlights common challenges and success factors. It provides an Aboriginal business guide and other resources that Aboriginal entrepreneurs can apply to their own businesses.

It also highlights some of the advantages to partnering with Aboriginal businesses. The findings in the report are based on a comprehensive literature review and interviews conducted with our featured businesses and community members as well as other business leaders - both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.

[2006 Aboriginal Population Profiles](#)

The Aboriginal Statistics Program released the 2006 Aboriginal Population Profiles for Selected Cities and Communities. This product is a series of profiles for a number of census metropolitan areas, census agglomerations and communities across Canada with a large Aboriginal population, either in numbers or share of the area's total population.

The series aims to present a demographic and socio-economic profile of the total Aboriginal population living in these areas. Demographic data as well as information on living arrangements of children, education, labour, income, mobility, housing, and health are highlighted. While most of the focus is on adults, there is also some information provided on children.

Data are presented by Aboriginal group for selected variables, along with comparisons with the non-Aboriginal population. Findings are based on the 2006 Census and the 2006 Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

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