



# **BUILDING FIRST NATIONS–MUNICIPAL COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS**



Photo: First Nations–Municipal CEDI



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**Muster your courage; take that leap of faith.  
If we can pool our resources and our knowledge,  
we can come up with some unique solutions that  
we wouldn't have been able to come up with on  
our own and that alone is well worth it.**

*Chief Roland Twinn,  
Sawridge First Nation, AB*

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# WHAT IS JOINT FIRST NATIONS–MUNICIPAL COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT?

First Nations and municipalities across the country share many common hopes and challenges. Joint First Nations–Municipal Community Economic Development (CED) brings together neighbouring communities to develop and implement a **shared vision** for their economic future.

These innovative partnerships promote **reconciliation**, **collaboration** and the **recognition of common values and goals**. They help coordinate local action to address regional issues and build a stronger, more sustainable economy for all.

## THE BENEFITS OF JOINT FIRST NATIONS–MUNICIPAL CED INCLUDE:

- ☑ **A stronger, united voice** for engaging with businesses and other orders of government.
- ☑ **Increased ability to access funding** from other orders of government.
- ☑ **Cost savings** and more **efficient** program delivery.
- ☑ **More opportunities** for **local business development** and **job creation**.
- ☑ **Ability to leverage** the unique financial, human and physical **resources** of each partner.
- ☑ **Coordinated planning efforts** to improve land use, land management and environmental/resource protection.



## TOOLKIT HIGHLIGHTS

The Stronger Together Toolkit is a free, step-by-step resource that provides all the information and tools you will need to initiate an effective First Nations–Municipal Community Economic Development partnership.

The toolkit was produced by the First Nations–Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI), a pilot program jointly delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Cando.

### A. Connect

Meet, build a stronger relationship and formally commit to the joint CED process

2–3 months

### B. Vision

Create a shared vision for the relationship and formally commit to it through a relationship agreement

2–4 months

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**My experience is it takes time, patience and resilience to build successful partnerships; as municipalities we have a lot to offer and more to receive.**

*Vicki Blanchard, Economic Development Manager,  
Municipality of Sioux Lookout, ON*

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## It includes:

- Background information and answers to frequently asked questions.
- A detailed, step-by-step guide to initiating and managing a joint First Nations–Municipal CED process.
- Handouts, templates, workshop agendas and other tools for implementing projects in your own community.
- Detailed case studies on how different communities have used the joint First Nations–Municipal CED process to improve the quality of life for their citizens.
- A guide to building strong First Nations–municipal relationships.

### C. Decide

Decide on joint CED initiatives, develop work plans and set up a governance structure to manage implementation

3–6 months

### D. Act

Work together to implement the work plans, strengthen the partnership and build a stronger regional economy

12–24 months

## JOIN US

Download the Stronger Together Toolkit  
today at: [fcm.ca/CEDToolkit](https://fcm.ca/CEDToolkit)

# COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: SUCCESS STORIES



- ▶ In Alberta, Sawridge First Nation, the Town of Slave Lake and the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River worked together to develop a joint economic development strategy, a regional growth strategy and a joint communications policy and are working on a regional tourism strategy that includes a focus on First Nations tourism.

In Ontario, Lac Seul First Nation, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug and the Municipality of Sioux Lookout are undertaking a feasibility study for a regional food distribution centre to serve northern communities and developing a joint labour market group to address planning for labour needs in the region.



- ▶ In Quebec, Eagle Village First Nation, the Town of Témiscaming and the Municipality of Kipawa are developing a joint regional tourism strategy.



# GET STARTED TODAY

**1**

**Download the Stronger Together Toolkit** and this brochure from [www.fcm.ca/CEDItoolkit](http://www.fcm.ca/CEDItoolkit).

**2**

**See “Get Ready” under Chapter 3** of the Stronger Together Toolkit for tips on how to get joint First Nation-municipal collaboration started in your own region.

**3**

**Share this brochure** with your colleagues and counterparts in neighbouring First Nations and municipalities.

**4**

**Discuss the benefits and opportunities** of joint First Nations–Municipal Community Economic Development at an upcoming council or staff meeting.

**5**

**Find more information** about the First Nations–Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative at [www.fcm.ca/CEDI](http://www.fcm.ca/CEDI).

**6**

**Join** the First Nations–Municipal Network on LinkedIn.

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## About FCM and Cando

The CEDI program and the Stronger Together Toolkit are the result of the effective partnership between FCM and Cando and the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC).

### FCM

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is the national voice of municipal government with almost 2,000 members, representing 90 per cent of Canada's population. FCM develops policies and delivers national and international programs that improve the environment as well as the social and economic sustainability of municipalities in Canada and abroad.

[www.fcm.ca](http://www.fcm.ca)

### Cando

Cando is a national, membership-based, non-profit Aboriginal organization involved in community economic development with Aboriginal communities. Cando strengthens Aboriginal economies by providing training, certification and networking opportunities for economic development officers (EDOs) working in Aboriginal communities.

[www.edo.ca](http://www.edo.ca)



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