

Part 3: Provincial/Territorial Initiatives

Newfoundland and Labrador

Statement on Aboriginal Policy

- There are no specific statements on Aboriginal policy; the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat, however, co-ordinates government activities related to Labrador affairs and Aboriginal affairs, including developing policy and programmes managing federal-provincial agreements and negotiating land claims.

Major Provincial Economic Development Initiatives

- The 1999–2000 budget, along with strategic investments in key areas and partnerships with other agencies, will strengthen the foundation already laid for regional economic development and small business development. One specific initiative is the availability of new resources for a federal-provincial post-TAGS economic development programme. The budget provides \$28 million for the post-TAGS programme, which will have a total budget allocation of \$81 million over three years.¹
- The March 1999 Speech from the Throne concentrated on the province’s resource-based “megaprojects” (Voisey’s Bay, Labrador Hydro, Terra Nova Petroleum) along with the fisheries, forestry, and mining industries.²
- In September 1999, the province launched a public consultation on an economic renewal strategy for jobs and growth. The consultation will also convene a series of sectoral forums in the following areas: manufacturing, advanced technology industries, fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, cultural industries, mining, forestry, agri-foods, and the petroleum industry. The results of the consultations are expected in the New Year.³
- Key Ministries: Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat
 Development and Rural Renewal
 Fisheries and Aquaculture
 Forest Resources and Agrifood
 Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat

¹ <http://www.gov.nf.ca/releases/1999/drr/0322n09.htm>

² <http://www.gov.nf.ca/house/throne99/speech99.htm>

³ <http://www.gov.nf.ca/jobsandgrowth/default.htm>

Key Provincial Economic Development Programmes

- The province does not have any direct Aboriginal/Inuit economic development policies. The Aboriginals are eligible for any of the current economic development projects offered in the province. They are also represented on the regional economic development boards in their respective zones.
- The Department of Development and Rural Renewal has divided the province into twenty economic zones. In each zone there is a regional economic development board, which facilitates the development and economic opportunities in the zone. The board is the main co-ordinating body between the communities, local development groups, business, labour, education and training groups, and the federal and provincial governments.⁴
- In May 1999, the Labrador Inuit Association, the Government of Newfoundland, and DIAND signed an Agreement in Principle (AIP) regarding the Inuit Land Claim. The AIP is a significant step toward Inuit and Innu self-government, and the beneficial sharing of economic development among all parties. The agreement includes details of land quantum, resource revenue sharing, and self-government.⁵
- The Strategic Enterprise Development Fund is designed to help firms engaged in strategic growth industries, particularly those offering potential for export (e.g., aquaculture, environmental industries, knowledge-based industries, value-added manufacturers). Seven million dollars has been committed to the fund over the course of two years. This fund helps to assist small- and medium-sized businesses take advantage of emerging opportunities in the provincial economy. To date, there have been five hundred investments, which have helped to create thirty-five hundred jobs. This fund helps to provide loans that may not be available from conventional lenders and other sources of business finance.⁶
- The Strategic Social Plan was released in August 1998 and will be phased in during 1998–2000. This framework for social development identifies specific directions, processes, and outcomes to guide the long-term actions of government. Among its strategic directions is the integration of social and economic development. The plan is being used as a means to organize current programmes, and although there is no actual dollar amount allotted to it, funding will be channelled through already existing programmes.

⁴ <http://www.gov.nf.ca/drr/ddrr.htm>

⁵ <http://www.gov.nf.ca/releases/1999/exec/0510n01.htm>

⁶ <http://www.gov.nf.ca/releases/1998/drr/smallbus.html>

- The recently announced Strategy to Support Development of Small-Scale Manufacturing identifies five key areas of strategic action to aid development in this sector. The primary focus is the adoption of emerging international manufacturing “best practices” and the establishment of a supportive government environment to maximize sector development in this province. The five areas of strategic action to develop the full potential of small-scale manufacturing are as follows:
 - targeting small-scale manufacturing as a development priority in the province;
 - Informing and educating manufacturers, industry associations, educators, community development organizations, and government agencies of the key trends and “best practices” for small-scale manufacturing success;
 - assisting small-scale manufacturers in Newfoundland and Labrador to adopt manufacturing “best practices” to improve sales, exports, profitability, and employment generation;
 - identifying, supporting, and marketing provincial and regional strengths and opportunities in specific sectors within the small-scale manufacturing industry; and
 - partnering with both levels of government, industry, education and training institutions, community development organizations, municipalities, and organized labour to create a co-ordinated and sustained approach to growing the small-scale manufacturing industry.

Existing Federal-Provincial Partnerships

- The Strategic Regional Development Agreement was signed between the province and the federal government. It is administered by the Atlantic Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and the province. Since 1996, approximately \$30 million has been committed to community-level economic development projects, which include new regional development corporations, improvements to the fisheries, and small business programmes. ACOA is seeking the renewal of the agreement, consisting of \$31.4 million over three years, from 2000–01 to 2002–03.
- In January 1999, officials unveiled a framework for a three-year Canada-Newfoundland Agreement of Economic Development and Fisheries Adjustment, which will be cost-shared between the federal and provincial governments. The agreement will have two main programmes: initiatives driven by the regional development groups and those driven by the private sector.

Nova Scotia

Statement on Aboriginal Policy

- In the October 1999 Speech from the Throne, the provincial government committed itself to “developing a more inclusive relationship with Nova Scotia’s Aboriginal peoples in finding resolutions to issues of ongoing concern,” and to establishing “a process for meaningful dialogue in dealing with the Aboriginal peoples of this province.”⁷
- Under the previous Nova Scotia government, the mission of the Aboriginal Affairs Directorate was “to assist the Mi’kmaq Community to achieve their self-determination and self-government.”⁸ It is unclear as to whether it will now be revised.

Major Provincial Economic Development Initiatives

- The 1999 provincial budget, presented by the new government in October, concentrated on fiscal measures aimed at getting the provincial deficit under control, and contained few measures directly aimed at economic development. The budget did confirm the establishment of a new Tourism and Culture Department, which will elaborate marketing plans for Nova Scotia’s tourism and craft industries.
- In the October 1999 Speech from the Throne, the government committed to devolve the powers and authority of economic development to the community level.
- Key Ministries:
 - Aboriginal Affairs
 - Department of Economic Development
 - Department of Natural Resources
 - Department of Energy and Mines

Key Provincial Economic Development Programmes

- There are thirteen community economic development agencies in Nova Scotia. Aboriginals are represented in their respective areas.
- The Community Opportunities Fund complements existing government programmes by supporting projects aimed at community economic development that cannot be adequately undertaken using the resources of existing government programmes,

⁷ <http://www.gov.ns.ca/legi/publi>

⁸ <http://www.gov.ns.ca/prio/abo/mission.htm>

community groups, or the private sector. The fund contributes up to \$100,000, or 50 percent of actual cost.⁹

- The Community Economic Development Investment Fund is designed to encourage equity participation in NS communities by assisting in the creation of community investment funds to help develop local business. Investments in these funds are eligible for equity tax credits and are partially protected.¹⁰

Existing Federal-Provincial Partnerships

- A Tripartite Agreement is in place to help facilitate talks between the Mi'kmaq, the Government of Nova Scotia, and the federal government. The chairman of the process is Alex Denny. There are three levels of discussions. The first is the executive level, which includes all thirteen chiefs of Nova Scotia, the minister of Indian Affairs (federal), and the premier of Nova Scotia. The second is the officials' level, which is comprised of Mi'kmaq organizations such as the Union of Nova Scotia Indians, the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaqs, and the Native Women's Association. With the approval of the executive committee, other organizations, such as federal or provincial bodies, can participate as well. The third level is committee, which has eight working committees discussing separate issues. The Natural Resources Committee, for instance, is looking at the harvesting situation. They are also examining the Sable Island Gas project. In the past year, the agreement has been renewed to look at the social housing issues.
- The 1999 budget allocated \$12.3 million to the Canada–Nova Scotia Economic Diversification Co-operation Agreement, signed between the province and the federal government, with provision for municipal cost-sharing as well. This agreement has helped to establish thirteen regional development agencies to support community-based economic and business development activity. The agreement is focussed on five areas: Gateway to North America, International Centre for Education and Research, Leading Trade Centre, International Centre for Oceans and Environment, and Celebration of Culture and Heritage. The projects undertaken by this agreement must lead to the creation of sustainable jobs, encourage development of strategic sectors, enhance the stability of communities, and so on.¹¹

⁹ <http://www.gov.ns.ca/ecor/ced/commapp.html>

¹⁰ <http://www.gov.ns.ca/ecor/pubs/cedguide/index.html>

¹¹ This agreement can be found at <http://www.eda.gov.ns.ca/info/guide-e.htm>

New Brunswick

Statement on Aboriginal Policy

- The previous provincial government had adopted the following three-pronged policy commitment:
 - to further the self-reliance and well-being of the Aboriginal people of New Brunswick, both on- and off-reserve, through pragmatic social and economic development initiatives;
 - to respect the Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet peoples in a way that promotes harmony and collaboration between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people; and
 - to participate in practical projects that support the continued development of self-governing arrangements for First Nation communities.

Major Provincial Economic Development Initiatives

- The previous government's 1999 budget focussed on health care and education. There was also money allocated to economic development and infrastructure. Specific initiatives included \$20 million to improve rural roads, \$2 million to the Small Entrepreneurs Capital Assistance Programme, more money for the Economic Development Fund, and also for infrastructure projects such as the four-lane highway between Moncton and Fredericton.¹²
- In the Speech from the Throne delivered November 30th, 1999, the New Brunswick government stated its commitment to renew health care, create new job opportunities, manage smarter and lower taxes, and invest in education. The government also promised to focus on job solutions and to build on the competitive advantages of small business, natural resources, and the local entrepreneurial strengths of the province's regions and communities. In addition, the government has laid out plans to carry out sector-specific strategies for forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, mining, agriculture, and tourism, which will be developed and presented publicly as key elements of the province's economic development approach.¹³
- Key Ministries:
 - Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs
 - Economic Development, Tourism and Culture
 - Agriculture and Rural Development
 - Natural Resources and Energy
 - Municipalities and Housing

¹² <http://www.gov.nb.ca/finance/pubs/buddoc99/index.htm>

¹³ <http://www.gov.nb.ca/legis/busi/54/throne99-e.htm>

Key Provincial Economic Development Programmes and Initiatives

- Nicholas-LaForest Task Force on Aboriginal Issues—Report: March 1999. The mandate of this task force was to make recommendations to the province on how to best proceed with Aboriginal issues. The task force concluded that there is a need for more economic development opportunities and jobs for New Brunswick’s Aboriginal community. The recommendations that dealt with economic development include:
 - the forestry industry should seek to increase Aboriginal participation throughout the industry;
 - when negotiating infrastructure and economic development agreements, the federal and provincial governments should include Aboriginal people;
 - JEDI should be given a higher profile and more resources so that it can become more responsive to the needs of Aboriginal communities;
 - there should be a meeting between the province, industry leaders, and Aboriginal leaders on the topic of increasing Aboriginal participation in the provincial economy; and
 - the Aboriginal population should be further encouraged to participate in the province’s tourism industry.
- Established in October 1995, the Economic Development Fund helps finance priority economic development initiatives not funded through the federal-provincial Agreement on Regional Economic Development or departmental budget appropriations. The fund is available to provincial departments and agencies in support of provincial government initiatives. This includes those directly related to the resource sectors (forestry, mining, agriculture, and fisheries) now excluded from federal funding, as well as other priority initiatives not able to proceed because of reduced levels of federal-provincial funding.¹⁴
- The Small Entrepreneur Capital Assistance Programme¹⁵ aims to increase incomes and to enhance employment opportunities in New Brunswick by financially stimulating small business enterprises to pursue new opportunities within the manufacturing and processing, information technology, and tourism industries. Up to 40 percent of eligible costs, to a maximum of \$50,000, is available. Eligible costs include capital costs, salary costs, and training costs, and must be of an “arms-length” nature.
- The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development administers the Aboriginal Cottage Industry Initiative, which facilitates the development of Aboriginal cottage industry producers and products.¹⁶

¹⁴ <http://www.gov.nb.ca/rdc/fde%2D98/part1.htm>

¹⁵ http://www.gov.nb.ca/edt/bus_serv/secap.htm

¹⁶ <http://www.gov.nb.ca/agricult/60/01/6001000e.htm>

- In November 1998, the Supreme Court turned down the application for appeal in the Peter Paul case, which led to a sigh of relief for the forestry industry. Forestry export trade in New Brunswick last year was valued at \$2,077,500. The provincial government has reached agreements with ten of the province's thirteen First Nations over the forestry issue. These agreements give allocation of wood on Crown lands based on population. The First Nations must follow the provisions respecting sustainability, pay stumpage fees, and process the wood at New Brunswick mills, thus creating more jobs and the possibility of First Nations mills. In the fall of 1999, the Marshall ruling opened up the possibility of resource rights being extended to forestry. Government and Native leaders are meeting on the issue.
- In September 1999, the Supreme Court of Canada in *Donald Marshall Jr. vs. the Crown* ruled that under a 1780 treaty, Mi'kmaq and Maliseet First Nations had the right to fish in order to provide a modest income for themselves. Natives throughout New Brunswick took this opportunity and began fishing lobster, which upset non-native fishermen because they were doing it out of season. A temporary, voluntary moratorium on fishing was established, but was then removed in mid-October. The situation remains unresolved.

Existing Federal-Provincial Partnerships

- The Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI) is a co-operative effort on the part of DIAND, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), and both on- and off-reserve Aboriginal people in New Brunswick. The initiative focusses on practical measures to enhance economic development. JEDI is working to improve community economic development/ capacity building, economic and business development, and employment.
- In August 1999, government representatives signed a two-year extension to the Regional Economic Development Agreement, which adds \$35.9 million from the Government of Canada and \$13.46 million from provincial coffers to the \$277.274 million already allotted to the agreement. The purpose of the agreement, which will expire in March 2003, is to expand New Brunswick's economic base by improving competitive ability, creating sustainable job growth, increasing income opportunities, encouraging the creation and growth of small- and medium-sized enterprises, developing human resource potential, and providing opportunities for private-sector investment as well as public-sector co-operation.¹⁷

¹⁷ Taken from: http://www.acoa.ca/english/media/press/press_info.asp?&=B&ID=1160

Prince Edward Island

Statement on Aboriginal Policy

- There are no specific policy statements.

Major Provincial Economic Development Initiatives

- The Speech from the Throne delivered on November 16th, 1999, outlined some economic development initiatives that the province hopes to establish or continue in their mandate. These include: a possible renewed partnership with the federal government on an infrastructure programme, a commitment to hold a conference on sustainable agriculture in 2000, a commitment to invest in research necessary to ensure the sustainability of the fishery, and a new private-public initiative to create an Information Technology Centre to support the island's IT sector. The government also expressed its support for the approach taken by native and non-native fishers in the province in response to the Supreme Court decision on native rights.¹⁸
- Key Ministries: Development
 Employment Development Agency
 Agriculture and Forestry

Key Provincial Economic Development Programmes

- Business Support Programmes was designed by the Enterprise PEI Agency (EPEI) to help island businesses develop and expand. The programme has two subgroups, one focussing on helping small businesses and the other on export development. The Small Business Support Programme provides support for manufacturers and processors with provincially-based business plans. Sectors eligible for support include; agri-food, fisheries, and diversified manufacturing (including film and crafts). The Export Development Programme provides support for manufacturers and processors focussing their business outside the province. Sectors eligible for support include agri-food, fisheries, pharmaceuticals, health care, environmental industries, diversified manufacturing, and information technology. EPEI also provides other business support programmes such as an Entrepreneurial Loan Programme and an Equity Investors' Incentive Programme.¹⁹

¹⁸ <http://www.gov.pe.ca/leg/speech/1999/index.php3>

¹⁹ <http://www.peibusinessdevelopment.com/>

Existing Federal-Provincial Partnerships

- Administered jointly by ACOA and the provincial government, the Canada/Prince Edward Island Regional Economic Development Agreement seeks to increase economic development opportunities in the province by supporting general strategic economic development efforts in the tourism, information technology, export trade and prospecting, value-added manufacturing, aerospace, and food-processing industries.

Québec

Statement on Aboriginal Policy

- The Québec government continues to work with Aboriginal nations and communities to better respond to their needs and concerns. Their social and economic development, as well as the harmonization of relations between Aboriginal people and Québeckers as a whole, remain key objectives for the government.²⁰
- In April 1998, the Québec government set out guidelines in a document titled “Partnership, Development, Achievement” to help enable Aboriginal nations and communities to take their own development in hand and thus achieve autonomy. In terms of economic development, the guidelines note that the geographic location of many Aboriginal communities has hampered the potential for the creation of jobs. The Québec government has stated that it “is willing to provide practical support, to the extent its means will allow,”²¹ a policy that establishes its position and acknowledges its willingness to help. Since the release of the document, there have been thirty agreements made between the Québec government and Aboriginal communities.

Major Provincial Economic Development Initiatives

- Key Ministries: Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones
 Ministère des Ressources

Key Provincial Economic Development Programmes

- The Aboriginal Development Fund is a \$125-million fund created by the provincial government to support Aboriginal community infrastructure and economic development. Money is distributed to communities according to objective criteria such as population, and the allotted amounts are worked out in agreements between the communities and the Québec government. Money is also reserved for Aboriginals living off reserves. Funding for economic development projects must feature one of the following characteristics: innovation, developmental effects, job creation, and enhancement of the living environment of the nation or community.²²
- The Mohawks of Kahnawake and the Province of Québec have signed ten sectoral agreements, which are designed to harmonize relations between the two partners and focus on the fiscal matter related to various topics, including economic development.

²⁰ *Rencontre*, 2, no 2 (October 1999).

²¹ Partnership, development, achievement. Section 1.5.

²² *Rencontre*, 2, no 2 (October 1999): 8.

This agreement fosters economic development and job creation for the Mohawks of Kahnawake, ensuring that economic projects from Kahnawake will be able to benefit from the Aboriginal Development Fund.²³

- The Algonquins of Barriere Lake have agreed to continue work on the Trilateral Agreement, the purpose of which is to complete the preparation of a draft integrated resource management plan and to initiate new negotiations related to the development of the Barriere Lake community. They hope to develop the lands for new community housing and infrastructure.²⁴
- The Mohawks of Kanasatake have been negotiating since 1991 for self-government. Funding for 1998–99 amounted to \$607,000. There are four areas being negotiated: territory and lands, police services and a justice system, social development, and economic development.
- The Hurons-Wendats of Wandake and the Québec government have reached agreement over the management and control of the Tourille sector of the Laurentides wildlife reserve. The agreement gives the Hurons-Wendats greater control over the natural resources in the area. Since the agreement, the group has benefited from funding provided by the Aboriginal Development Fund for various development projects, which have increased training opportunities and employment.²⁵
- The Kativik Regional Government and the Province of Québec have reached an agreement that will make \$25 million available for economic development in the Kativik region. The money will go towards job creation for the Inuit and the improvement and construction of community infrastructure.²⁶
- The Micmac of Gespeg and the Québec government have signed a framework agreement that will allow the Gespeg Micmacs greater self-government and control of their own social and economic development.²⁷
- The Micmacs of Gesgapegiac and the Québec government have signed a Statement of Understanding and Mutual Respect and a Framework Agreement. The latter outlines the general frameworks within which agreements will be reached. The initial phase involves the Micmacs of Gesgapegiac participating in partnership in the management and development of forest and wildlife resources. The second involves the construction and operation of an ethno-tourism centre in the community, and may also involve the

²³ <http://www.saa.gouv.qc.ca/cpress/a990330.htm>

²⁴ <http://www.saa.gouv.qc.ca/cpress/barriereang2.htm>

²⁵ *Rencontre*, 2, no. 2 (October 1999).

²⁶ <http://www.saa.gouv.qc.ca/cpress/a990629.html>

²⁷ <http://www.saa.gou.qc.ca/cpress/a990518.html>

negotiation of other sectors such as economic development, education, health, public security, and taxation.²⁸

- Out of a series of agreements centred on the James Bay and Northern Québec area, one with the Adonic of W'Ilnak will define how the Abenaki will carry out their fishing, hunting, and trapping activities and will make the communities full partners in resource management.²⁹
- Inuit villages will receive \$25 million from the Québec government in a five-year initiative designed to promote the development of Inuit communities. The objective of the programme is to stimulate economic development, create jobs, and improve and/or create community infrastructure.³⁰
- An agreement was reached between the Montagnais of Unamen-Shipu to improve and refurbish La Romaine Airport and to improve an access road. Forty percent of the funding for the project will be covered by the Québec government, with the federal government providing the remaining 60 percent.³¹
- The Montagnais of Betsiamites and Hydro-Québec reached a partnership agreement to develop hydro power stations along various rivers in the area. The projects will cost \$82 million, with \$15 million being provided by the Montagnais.³²
- Transport Katinnik will receive \$500,000 from the Fonds régional de solidarité Nord-du-Québec, or regional solidarity fund. In total, this fund has \$6 million. The money for this project will help the transport company and mining industries in the area become more profitable.³³

Existing Federal-Provincial Partnerships

- The Tripartite Political Accord to Create Nunavik Corporation was signed by the Makivik Corporation and the provincial and federal governments. The mandate of the group is to make recommendations on a form of government for Nunavik (action plan, recommendations on the structure, operations, and powers, as well as an implementation timetable).³⁴

²⁸ <http://www.saa.gouv.qc.ca/cpress/a991105.html>

²⁹ *Rencontre*, 2, no 2 (October 1999): 4.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ *Ibid.* 5.

³² *Ibid.* 6.

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ <http://www.saa.gouv.qc.ca/cpress.a991105.html>

Ontario

Statement on Aboriginal Policy

- The Ontario government has adopted an Aboriginal Policy Framework, which is aimed at “encouraging and assisting Aboriginal economic and community development to reduce dependence on transfer payments and to facilitate greater self-reliance and responsibility for community well-being.”

Major Provincial Economic Development Initiatives

- The 1999–2000 budget created the “SuperBuild Growth Fund,” which will provide \$20 billion for provincial infrastructure investments over the next five years. In 1999–2000, the fund will support the rehabilitation and expansion of Ontario’s strategic highways, help municipalities with water and sewer facilities, support environmental protection and monitoring, and expand the infrastructure of colleges and universities.
- The October 21, 1999, Speech from the Throne had little to say about specific economic development initiatives. The provincial government will continue to use the SuperBuild Growth Fund to support major infrastructure projects over the next five years, and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund to support economic growth in rural and northern areas.³⁵

Key Provincial Economic Development Programmes

- The Building Aboriginal Economies strategy, launched in July 1998, is a co-ordinated framework of thirty programmes and services across eleven ministries that supports Aboriginal economic and business development. Its goal is to increase capacity and opportunities in Aboriginal communities in order to promote self-reliance, economic growth and investment, an improved business environment, and more jobs for Aboriginal people. It has four strategic directions:
 - removing barriers to Aboriginal economic development by promoting capacity development, improving access to capital, and improving infrastructure;
 - creating opportunities for Aboriginal economic development;
 - improving access to provincial programmes and services; and
 - promoting Aboriginal/corporate partnerships³⁶

³⁵ <http://www.gov.on.ca/english/thronespeech99.htm>

³⁶ <http://www.nativeaffairs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/about.thm#economic>

- Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat: Through a new, five-year, \$11.8-million programme called Working Partnerships, the secretariat will work to promote and encourage more Aboriginal partnerships with the corporate sector. In addition, the Aboriginal Community Capital Infrastructure Fund currently promotes Aboriginal community development through capital projects that address health, safety, and infrastructure needs. The secretariat will consult on possible future uses of the fund for the creation of a new programme to support economic development infrastructure needs.

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs: The Outreach and Delivery Pilot Project is aimed at improving access to provincial services for rural Aboriginal people and communities by increasing outreach and delivery services and promoting partnerships. As well, the ministry offers Leadership Training courses to rural Aboriginal communities on request. Through a partnership agreement with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, northern development advisors are available to provide these services to Aboriginal economic development initiatives in northern Ontario.

- The Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation administers the following programmes:
 - The Special Projects and Services Grants Programme (SPSG) helps to strengthen First Nations and Aboriginal communities through initiatives that develop or strengthen business and organizational structures; and supports the development of viable Aboriginal community business enterprises. Funding is available for organizational development, small business development, and rolling and capital stock projects. SPSG generally funds up to 80 percent of the total eligible project costs to a maximum of \$20,000.³⁷

 - New in 1999/2000, the Ontario Aboriginal Economic Development Programme (OAEDP) is jointly developed and managed by the ministry and the Aboriginal Provincial and Territorial Organizations (PTOs) to support Aboriginal participation in market opportunities, business development, and economic development. The OAEDP makes use of an alternate service delivery model with Aboriginal project decision making by the Aboriginal partner organizations and programme administration by an Aboriginal organization. This programme is designed to increase community economic activity, to increase the capacity of Aboriginal communities to participate in the economy, and to support the demonstrated business development needs of Aboriginal communities. Funding is available for business development projects and

economic capacity-building projects. An approved applicant may receive up to \$35,000 for either type of initiative.

- The Aboriginal Community Capital Grants Programme (ACCP) has two components: a) the Ontario Native Community Infrastructure Programme (ONCIP) makes funding available for the construction, acquisition, or renovation of community centres and friendship centres across Ontario; and b) the Native Small Business Centres Programme (NSBC) provides funding for the construction, acquisition, or renovation of a small business centre. Funding is also available for the development or expansion of a business park, or for feasibility studies.³⁸
- The Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations: A pilot project titled Ontario Business Connects Workstations will test whether workstation technology can improve service to remote Aboriginal communities. Through the pilot, entrepreneurs can perform instant electronic transactions to register or renew business names, or complete applications required for the start-up or expansion of a business.
- The Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism includes Aboriginal components in its economic development programmes and outreach strategies (<http://www.ontario-canada.com>).
- The Ministry of Finance offers Liaison Services, through which it plans to establish a portfolio of responsibilities aimed at providing liaison services between Aboriginal organizations, the financial services industry, and government, to facilitate linkages and partnerships in support of Aboriginal economic development. It also administers the Community Small Business Investment Fund Programme, which provides small, local businesses with greater access to capital at the start-up phase of development. First Nations are eligible sponsors. Other Aboriginal organizations may also apply to the Ministry of Finance to become sponsors.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources sponsors a programme called Forest Management Economic Development Opportunities. In partnership with the forest industry, the ministry facilitates dialogue and negotiations to promote Aboriginal employment, training, and business opportunities in the forest sector. This has led to joint ventures, partnerships, and other business arrangements between Aboriginal communities and the forest industry.

³⁷ <http://www.gov.on.ca:80/MCZCR/english/citdiv/aborigin/programmes.htm>

³⁸ <http://www.gov.on.ca:80/MCZCR/english/citdiv/aborigin/programmes.htm>

- The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines administers the following three initiatives:
 - The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation supports the development and marketing of regional tourism enhancement projects, infrastructure improvements in telecommunications and transportation, and other economic development initiatives for northern communities.
 - Through the Regional Economic Development Branch, the ministry has established an integrated approach to regional economic development in northern Ontario. Six area teams provide a focal point for economic development services in all sectors, including tourism, agriculture, natural resources, mining, business/industry, and Aboriginal economic development.
 - When requested by a First Nation, the ministry will negotiate mining agreements to waive Ontario's entitlement to 50 percent of mineral revenues earned on Indian reserve lands. The ministry will also continue to encourage companies to negotiate Impact Benefit Agreements with local Aboriginal communities.

Existing Federal-Provincial Partnerships

- The Economic Renewal Initiative is a partnership between DIAND, the Ontario government, and members of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal business communities to foster the growth and development of Aboriginal businesses in Ontario through strategic partnerships and independent ventures. A steering committee of twelve provides direction to the Economic Renewal Secretariat that manages the initiative. The secretariat is supported by full-time staff located in Toronto and receives operational funding from the Government of Ontario, the Government of Canada, corporate sponsors, and Aboriginal organizations.
- The Canada-Ontario Resource Development Agreement, a federal/provincial cost-shared programme, is designed to improve the economic circumstances of First Nations people in Ontario by promoting resource and economic development opportunities. The programme helps Aboriginal communities to access, develop, use, and manage renewable natural resources.

Manitoba

Statement on Aboriginal Policy

- The province elected a new government on September 21st, 2000. The November 30th Speech from the Throne outlined plans to develop the potential of the North and of First Nations people. The speech also promised longer-term economic measures, including a summit on the future of the Manitoban economy that will allow business, labour, and government to forge a new strategy for economic development. The speech included a promise to build a new relationship with Aboriginal people, based on First Nations' aspirations, rights, and needs.³⁹
- A new Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs has been created to deal with issues relating to Aboriginal peoples and the North. Eric Robinson is the new minister.

Major Provincial Economic Development Initiatives

- Key Ministries: Department of Rural Development
Ministry of Conservation
Finance
Industry, Trade and Tourism
Ministry of Northern/Native Affairs

Key Provincial Economic Development Programmes

- The Department of Rural Development administers the following programmes:
 - The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) reinvests video lottery terminal (VLT) revenue back into rural Manitoba to promote rural economic development. A series of eight programmes gives communities and businesses the tools to develop and prosper, bringing vitality and growth to rural Manitoba. Projects must be commercially viable and be located outside of Winnipeg. Programmes supported by the REDI include the Rural Entrepreneur Assistance and Community Works Loan Programme, which provides loans and loan guarantees to new or expanding businesses. REDI also provides funding for feasibility studies and for projects of strategic importance, such as strengthening the foundation for increased economic development and diversification of the rural economy, and the enhancing and/or restructuring of community economic development programmes and services directed towards rural Manitoba.⁴⁰

³⁹ <http://www.gov.mb.ca/throne.html>

⁴⁰ <http://www.gov.mb.ca/rd/what.html#programme>

- Grow Bonds allow people in rural communities to participate directly in strengthening their local economies and in creating job opportunities for young people. Grow Bonds bring together local investors and entrepreneurs in initiatives such as manufacturing, processing, tourism, commercial water/gas distribution, exporting, and the provision of goods or services for the protection of the environment. Under provisions of the *Rural Development Bonds Act*, communities plan and manage bond offerings to raise capital that is used to finance eligible new business opportunities and expansions.
- Infrastructure Development programmes assist communities to improve sewer, water, and energy services, transportation access, waste disposal facilities, and telecommunications specifically designed to service new or expanding businesses. Economic development organizations and local government authorities can apply for assistance. Eligible projects are funded on a 50/50 matching basis for on-site project costs to a maximum of \$100,000, or \$500,000 if the infrastructure improvement provides a regional service. Infrastructure services must be publicly owned and maintained.
- The Small Business and Co-operative Development Branch supports the Aboriginal Business Development Programme, which promotes entrepreneurship training, business information, seminars, and counselling to individuals and community organizations in the interests of developing small business and entrepreneurship. Access to business, information, services, and programmes is a main target.⁴¹
- Ota-Miska 1999–2000: The department also provides a web site for Aboriginal business information.
- A three-year joint venture between the Ministry of Natural Resources and the First Nations allows for First Nations to capture 150 elk per year; they are allowed to keep up to 250 head. The province will retain an additional 200 elk, some of which will be sold to elk farmers. Over five years, this industry is expected to be valued at \$50 million.⁴²
- The Economic Innovation and Technology Council was established on September 1, 1992, as the Province of Manitoba's private-sector advisory council on economic

⁴¹ http://db.itt.gov.mb.ca/ITT/BRC/BRC_Pub.nsf

⁴² "Elk Farming Agreement Signed with First Nations," Manitoba Government News Release, November 7, 1997.

development and innovation. In May 1999, the *Report of the Aboriginal Economic Development Task Group*, which included representatives from Aboriginal communities and the private sector, presented fifteen recommendations aimed at five areas: improving co-ordination and linkages among all stakeholders by establishing best-practice guidelines; improving the educational outcomes of Aboriginal youth; increasing the participation of Aboriginal people in postsecondary education and training; improving labour-market information so it is more relevant and meaningful; and increasing access to capital for Aboriginal entrepreneurs and businesses. The recommendations included:

- the creation of a directory of private-sector and Aboriginal organizations that have successfully participated in joint ventures, and private-sector organizations seeking partnerships and joint ventures; and
- a strong suggestion that the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs should establish an Aboriginal Capital Fund as a sound and logical step to improve access to capital for Aboriginal entrepreneurs and business.

Existing Federal-Provincial Partnerships

- The Canada-Manitoba Economic Development Agreement is a collaborative partnership focussed on strategic priorities designed to generate economic development in Manitoba. From 1998 through March 2002, this agreement will direct \$40 million into strategic projects that will expand the international competitiveness of Manitoba's key growth sectors, commercialize new technologies, assist small and medium-sized businesses and entrepreneurs, enhance long-term economic self-sustainability of rural and urban communities, and increase tourism potential. The federal and provincial governments will each contribute \$20 million to the agreement. Under the business development plan, strategic priority is the advancement of Aboriginal entrepreneurship.⁴³
- The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs is working with the federal and provincial governments to secure a five-year economic development agreement for the First Nations of Manitoba. A report from the assembly's Economic Development Strategy Committee presented to the Manitoba Economic Innovation and Technology Council in March 1997 outlined five strategic objectives for creating a "comprehensive provincial framework to guide First Nations in creating sustainable First Nations Economies."⁴⁴ The task force that was formed as a result, which includes members of the provincial government and corporate Canada, acts as an advisor to the Economic Development

⁴³ <http://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/edpa/programme.html>

⁴⁴ Aboriginal Economic Development Task Group, Terms of Reference, p. 1.

Strategy Committee. Four working groups are looking at Education and Training, Employment Opportunities, Access to Capital, and Building Partnerships.

- A federal/provincial/Aboriginal initiative titled Partners for Careers was established in 1997 to help place Aboriginal graduates in careers. Cost-shared between the Manitoba Department of Education and Trade and HRDC, the programme offers Aboriginal youth participants mentorships with industry leaders and placement in entry-level positions in the private sector. The objective of the programme is to develop working relationships among educational institutions, Aboriginal organizations, and the business community.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ <http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/press/>

Saskatchewan

Statement on Aboriginal Policy

- Provincial Vision Statement: Framework for Metis and Off-Reserve Aboriginal Peoples.⁴⁶ “Metis and other off-reserve Aboriginal people will be equal members of the Saskatchewan society, who have diverse culture and certain constitutional rights. They will have individual and community well-being. They will participate fully in the provincial economy and have opportunities for education and training and meaningful and sustainable employment.”⁴⁷

Major Provincial Economic Development Initiatives

- The budget released in March 1999 pledges to invest in northern economic development in industries such as tourism, forestry, and Aboriginal business. The budget also pledges support for Small to Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) (doubling the funding available through the Small Business Loans Association programme). In addition, there is money to improve the province’s infrastructure—\$235 million to continue modernizing the transportation system (including \$5 million for rural roads in addition to the \$19 million provided to the municipalities for this purpose), and \$10 million for a provincial-municipal infrastructure programme to help northern, rural, and urban municipalities address priorities.⁴⁸
- Key Ministries: Aboriginal Affairs Division
 Economic and Co-operative Development
 Office of Northern Affairs
 Finance

Key Provincial Economic Development Programmes

- The Aboriginal Employment Development Programme⁴⁹ was established in 1992 to facilitate employment opportunities for Aboriginal peoples across the public and private sectors. Through the development of an Aboriginal inventory, the programme strategically links employers with suitable Indian and Metis candidates. It also provides follow-up support services upon hiring and increases crosscultural awareness in the workplace. The programme provides assistance to Aboriginal education institutions and employers for various employment development projects.

⁴⁶ Note, there is an argument on whether to change to First Nations or leave as Aboriginal Peoples.

⁴⁷ Contacted the Aboriginal Affairs sector of Economic Development. Contact Angis Schmidt for further information (306) 787-3583.

⁴⁸ <http://www.gov.sk.ca/finance/budget/>

⁴⁹ http://www.gov.sk.ca/govt/aborig_affairs/progserv.htm

- The Strategic Initiatives Fund (SIF) is a \$6-million fund administered by the Department of Economic and Co-operative Development to encourage the development of new technologies and research infrastructure in Saskatchewan. The goal of this fund is to enhance the competitiveness of Saskatchewan industries, as well as to develop new value-added products and processes to expand the Saskatchewan economy. Priority is given to the following sectors: forestry, mining, energy, value-added agriculture, information technology and telecommunications, and tourism and cultural industries.⁵⁰
- The Small Business Loans Association Programme provides business development opportunities to the nontraditional or beginning entrepreneur, and extends financing beyond the scope of traditional lenders.
- The Labour-Sponsored Venture Capital Corporation (LSVCC) runs a programme designed to help employee groups and individuals create or maintain jobs by contributing to funds that invest in small and medium-sized Saskatchewan-based businesses. Once an LSVCC is incorporated by a labour association and registered with the department, employees and individuals can invest and qualify for federal and provincial tax credits. The pool of capital can be used for a range of investments, or to enable employees to buy all or part of the company for which they work.
- The Regional Economic Development Authority Initiative encourages groups of communities to work in partnership with the private, co-operative, and public sectors to achieve the shared goals of partnerships, co-ordination, organizational stability, and service in regional trading areas. In Phase I, start-up funds are available on a cost-shared basis to assist in the formation of REDAs. In Phase II, cost-shared funding is available to help established REDAs build their service capacity and form partnerships with provincial government departments and the co-operative and private sectors.
- The Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation (SOCO) is the province's economic development investment agency, established with a mandate to "facilitate economic growth in Saskatchewan through investment in viable businesses and infrastructure that supports the development of business." The corporation provides a full range of business financing services including debt, contract financing, equity, and guarantees. Emphasis is on partnering with private-sector sources of capital and on community participation in projects. Investments are targeted to companies involved in value-added manufacturing and processing, commercialization of new technologies, and

⁵⁰ <http://www.gov.sk.ca/econdev/welcome/progserv.shtml>

export-oriented or import-replacement projects. The corporation emphasizes six sectors that have potential for continued economic growth in the province: forestry, value-added agriculture and food processing, tourism, mining, energy, and advanced technology.⁵¹

- The Northern Development Fund (NDF) provides northerners with term financing for small and medium-sized business ventures that involve the following activities: pursuing goods and services contracts for mining and resource-sector development; providing and developing products and services that contribute to northern diversification; and traditional northern activities such as fishing, trapping, and wild-rice production. As well, the NDF provides cost-shared funding for organizations that wish to establish community-based regional economic development organizations (CREDOs); northern residents' projects that involve marketing, promotion, and research/ development; and a skills development package that allows northerners to develop a wide variety of training seminars. Each year, \$5 million is available for loans, and \$1 million for grants.⁵²
- The Commercial Fishing Transportation Subsidy and Price Support Programme helps defray the high cost of transporting commercially caught fish from remote areas of northern Saskatchewan to market. Price support is offered to encourage the use of mullet (a bait).
- In 1998, northern political leaders joined Premier Roy Romanow and Northern Affairs Minister Keith Goulet to sign the Northern Strategy Memorandum of Understanding. The northern leaders included representatives of the Prince Albert Grand Council, Meadow Lake Tribal Council, Metis Nation of Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities (New North), together with Athabasca First Nation chiefs. The Northern Strategy is an agreed statement of goals and objectives for further social, economic, and political development in the northern administration district of Saskatchewan. The strategy also includes three "enabling mechanisms"—new measures intended to support the strategy's goals and objectives. These include a Northern Development Board, a Strategic Opportunities Assessment, and a proposed Northern Development Agreement, which would be funded jointly by the federal and provincial governments. Under the Strategic Opportunities Assessment, researchers will examine the potential for growth and development in northern Saskatchewan, and assess the capacity for northerners and northern communities to participate fully in, and to benefit from, economic development in the North. Work is ongoing.⁵³

⁵¹ <http://www.gov.sk.ca/soco/about.htm>

⁵² <http://www.gov.sk.ca/econdev/welcome/progserv.html>

⁵³ <http://www.northern.gov.sk.ca/DEFAULTV4.HTM>

- The Aboriginal Employment Development Programme (AEDP) is a partnership agreement established with employers to carry out workplace audits to identify and remove any barriers to Aboriginal employment, and to identify future job requirements and work with postsecondary institutions and Aboriginal communities to develop training focussed on present and future employment opportunities. At least twenty-three agreements have been signed so far with the private sector, unions, and health district boards.⁵⁴

Existing Federal-Provincial Partnerships

- The provincial government has proposed a Northern Development Agreement as a means by which the federal and provincial governments can jointly provide incremental funding to support the goals and objectives of the Northern Strategy. The province feels that the agreement could help achieve some of the economic development opportunities and could address SOCO-economic development recommendations arising from reports issued by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and the Federal-Provincial Panel on Uranium Developments in Northern Saskatchewan. The federal government has been advised that the Interim Northern Development Board and Government of Saskatchewan would like to negotiate such an agreement to begin supporting new development initiatives in the 2000–2001 fiscal year, which begins April 1, 2000. Meetings are being held with federal officials to discuss the concept and purpose of this agreement, but no commitments to an agreement have yet been made.⁵⁵
- The FSIN/Public Sector/Private Sector Corporate Circle Development is intended to create economic and employment opportunities for all citizens of Saskatchewan through a formal dialogue and Liaison Forum. The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations ratified a long-term Economic Development Strategic Plan in January 1995. The vision of that plan was one of “healthy individuals, families, and communities developed through a First Nations governmental, societal, cultural, and economic structure, supported by co-ordinated economic development.” The plan calls for the creation of thirty thousand jobs over twenty years. DIAND has agreed to finance the start-up of the project, though budgetary numbers are still being negotiated.⁵⁶
- The Canada-Saskatchewan Western Economic Partnership Agreement was signed in July 1998 to encourage economic development in Saskatchewan. The total funding is

⁵⁴ <http://www.gov.sk.ca/newsrel/1999Jul/634.99071501.html>

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶ From the Plan for the Corporate Circle. See Saskatchewan files.

\$40 million, which is split between the province and the federal government. The five strategic areas are: economic infrastructure, tourism, export and marketing, rural and northern economic development, and strategic project assessments.⁵⁷

- The Multi-Party Training Plan co-ordinates and funds training for northerners to enable them to benefit from increased mining activity in northern Saskatchewan. A five-year agreement was renewed in February 1999 and provides \$13 million. Its goal is to fill 60 percent of new positions created by mining, construction, and support services with residents of Saskatchewan's north. Participants include the Government of Saskatchewan, HRDC, WD, mining companies, Prince Albert Grand Council, Meadow Lake Tribal Council, and Metis organizations.⁵⁸

⁵⁷ <http://www.wd.gc.ca/eng/content/press/1998/july27-1a.html>

⁵⁸ <http://www.northern.gov.sk.ca/DEFAULTV4.htm>

Alberta

Statement on Aboriginal Policy

- The Department of International and Intergovernmental Affairs is developing an Aboriginal policy framework for the Alberta government, which will be created in consultation with other government departments, Aboriginal communities, and organizations. This framework “will guide government in its relations with Aboriginal peoples and create an environment in which Aboriginal peoples can better participate in the Alberta advantage.”⁵⁹ The policy framework will have three goals: to improve well-being and self-reliance for Aboriginal people in Alberta; to manage natural resources and their revenues in a manner that benefits all Albertans, recognizing the rights of Aboriginal people and focussing on how they can best take advantage of natural resource opportunities; and to clarify roles and responsibilities among Aboriginal people and the provincial government.⁶⁰ A draft was released in September for public feedback.⁶¹ Consultations are ongoing and an announcement is expected soon.

Major Provincial Economic Development Initiatives

- On February 17, 2000, the government opened its new session with a commitment to the following principles: fiscal responsibility, innovation, equity, and balance. The Speech from the Throne stated the government’s intention to implement an updated economic strategy that will “lay out a comprehensive plan for the future that focusses on competition in the global economy and maximizing the human talent and ingenuity of all Albertans.” Economic development related items in the Speech from the Throne included:
 - continuation of a \$900-million, three-year reinvestment in provincial infrastructure systems;
 - proceeding with the restructuring of the electricity industry, including deregulation and the introduction of a competitive marketplace;
 - connecting communities with a high-speed, high-bandwidth Internet line; and
 - the establishment of a \$500-million endowment fund for science and engineering research, as well as a commitment of \$90 million to support research in the areas of agriculture, bioscience, health, forestry, energy, and industry.⁶²

⁵⁹ <http://www.gov.ab.ca/gov/thronespeech2000>

⁶⁰ Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs *Annual Report*, pg. 25.

⁶¹ <http://www.gov.ab.ca/iaa/pdf/abpolicy.pdf>

⁶² <http://www.gov.ab.ca/gov/thronespeech2000>

- In the 1999/2000 budget, the province introduced \$2 billion in new programmes, which will be delegated to five main priorities: health, education, advanced education and career development, and economic competitiveness/infrastructure. Infrastructure spending is estimated to total \$1.3 billion. Major infrastructure construction projects include transportation, schools, health facilities, and information technology networks.⁶³

Key Provincial Economic Development Programmes

- The Oil Sands Expansion will facilitate the development of Aboriginal employment and contract work with oil companies in northern Alberta.
- The Employment and Economic Promotion Programme provided matching grants to remote Aboriginal communities to establish community liaison offices. Other grants helped promote economic and educational opportunities for Aboriginal individuals and communities.⁶⁴
- Under the Co-operative Natural Resource Management programme, Whitefish Lake and Horse Lake First Nation negotiated agreements with Alberta Environmental Protection to provide opportunities for First Nations to participate in the management of natural resources important to them and to benefit from local economic development associated with natural resources.
- As part of the Department of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs' (IAA) Alberta Self-Reliance Initiatives (ASRI), a series of workshops was held between resource development industries and Aboriginal communities. Co-hosted by the community, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, and IAA, the purpose of these workshops was to increase opportunities for Aboriginal communities to participate in the resource development sector.⁶⁵
- Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs works with the private sector and First Nations to help enhance economic development opportunities for communities. Examples include Weyerhaeuser and the Grand Cache Co operatives and Enterprises, and Syncrude/Suncor and Northeast Alberta First Nations.
- Another IAA programme, Community Liaison Officer on Employment and Economic Promotion, provides funding to Aboriginal communities (\$153,000 in 1998–1999) to increase businesses, employment, and economic opportunities.⁶⁶

⁶³ <http://www.treas.gov.ab.ca/comm/budget99/index.html>

⁶⁴ *Ibid*, pg. 40.

⁶⁵ Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs *Annual Report*.

⁶⁶ *Annual Report*, pg 25.

- The Alberta Opportunity Company's mission is to advance Alberta's economic development by providing loans to Alberta businesses that have viable business proposals, when such support is not available from conventional lenders. Priority is given to smaller businesses in rural communities, and to those which create or preserve jobs.⁶⁷

Existing Federal-Provincial Partnerships

- The Western Economic Partnership Agreement is an arrangement between the federal and provincial government that will direct \$40 million to new economic development projects over the next five years. In 1998–1999 the Department of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs negotiated eighteen Western Economic Partnerships Agreement Phase II projects with the federal government worth over \$15 million. The agreements will expand the economic potential of key industries and encourage economic and regional development in Alberta. In addition, Phase II projects will involve greater federal-provincial co-operation, improved delivery of government services, and more effective co-ordination of activities related to economic development in Alberta. Funding for the projects will enhance community development, build technology and innovation infrastructure, and will be shared equally between the federal and provincial governments. Canada and Alberta agreed to allocate \$1 million to projects that would have a positive impact on Aboriginal employment/business growth.⁶⁸

⁶⁷ <http://www.treas.gov.ab.ca/comm/budget99/econ.html>

⁶⁸ <http://www.gov.ab.ca/edt/library/annrep/index.html>

British Columbia

Statement on Aboriginal Policy

- The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs aims to help build a society in which: relationships between Aboriginal people and all British Columbians are based on equality and respect; Aboriginal people can fulfil their aspirations for self-determining and self-sustaining communities; all British Columbians can enjoy the social and economic benefits of co-operation and certainty.⁶⁹

Major Provincial Economic Development Initiatives

- The 1999/2000 budget is committed to improving health care, cutting taxes, strengthening education, improving regional economies, and improving housing opportunities. The province has provided \$1.9 billion for infrastructure development.
- Key Ministries: Aboriginal Affairs
 BC Oil and Gas Commission
 Employment and Investment
 Energy and Mines
 Fisheries, Aboriginal Affairs Branch
 Forests
 Community Development, Co-operatives and Volunteers

Key Provincial Economic Development Programmes

- The First Citizens Fund is a \$25-million endowment fund established in 1969. Interest earned by the fund provides money to enhance economic development, cultural, social, and educational opportunities for BC's Aboriginal people (status, nonstatus, Metis, and Inuit). The Business Loan Programme, within the fund, was created to support Aboriginal economic development through the enhancement of Native business management skills, the creation of successful new Native-owned and -operated businesses, and the expansion of existing Native business and employment opportunities. In addition, the Native Economic Development Advisory Board meets approximately four times each year, and advises the minister and cabinet of appropriate strategies supporting Aboriginal businesses, cultural, social, and economic development.⁷⁰

⁶⁹ <http://www.aaf.gov.bc.ca/aaf/ministry.htm>

⁷⁰ <http://www.aaf.gov.bc.ca/aaf/pubs/fcfund.htm>

- The BC Oil and Gas Commission was established to provide streamlined service in the industry. The BC government recently announced the signing of three agreements, to be administered by the Oil and Gas Commission, with First Nations from Treaty 8. The agreements provide money for further development of Aboriginal interests in oil and gas activity and development plans.
- Since May 1998 the government has given approval-in-principle to seven casino proposals. Four are from First Nations, including the Campbell River Indian Band and Penticton First Nation.
- The mandate of BC's Forest Renewal Communities Programme is to plan and implement a programme of investments to renew the forest economy of British Columbia by enhancing the productive capacity and environmental values of forest lands, by creating jobs, providing training for forest workers, and strengthening local communities that depend on the forest industry. Projects funded by Forest Renewal BC encourage the participation of First Nations.⁷¹
- Fisheries Renewal BC ensures that all British Columbians have an opportunity for direct involvement in efforts to protect and revitalize the province's fisheries. The *Fisheries Protection Act* and the *Fisheries Renewal Act* are key components of the strategy, which proposes a comprehensive, shared vision aimed at protecting fish and fish habitat, ensuring secure jobs in the fishery, providing economic stability for fisheries-dependent communities, and securing a greater role for BC citizens in managing the province's fisheries.⁷²
- The Community Enterprise Programme provides resource-based rural and coastal communities facing economic transition and hardship with seed funding to develop and implement locally driven, new and innovative business ventures. The initiative has three main components: community and co-operative business development (matching funds of up to \$100,000 per project); community capacity building (contributions of up to \$50,000 for pilot projects for select population groups, including First Nations); and community venture capital (to encourage investment in small business).⁷³

Existing Federal-Provincial Partnerships

- In 1997, in conjunction with Alcan, the province created the Northern Development Fund in an effort to resolve some legal issues arising from the cancellation of the Alcan Kemano Completion Project. At the beginning of 1998, the two parties began

⁷¹ <http://www.forestrenewal.bc.ca/frbc/owa/get?p=vi-about>

⁷² <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/main/newsrel/fisc9798/july/nr045.htm>

⁷³ <http://www.cdev.gov.bc.ca/ComEnterprise/default.htm>

contributing a total of \$5 million per year for three years. The mandate of the fund is to promote sustainable economic activity in northern communities affected by the Kitimat-Kemano Project and the creation of the Nechako Reservoir. The fund is intended to support the people of these communities, stimulate positive economic development opportunities, and create a legacy of economic and social well being.⁷⁴

- The province has no partnership agreement with Western Diversification, although there has been funding for community ventures through Community Futures Development Corporations.

⁷⁴ <http://www.NDF.gov.bc.ca>

Yukon

Statement on Aboriginal Policy

- The Yukon Government is committed to working together with industry, governments, and Aboriginal communities so that all can gain a better understanding of each other's concerns and needs. Through partnerships, exploration activities can continue to occur in conjunction with traditional use of the land. It is important for companies operating in the Yukon to work well with First Nation governments, since Aboriginal people make up a significant part of the workforce in the North.

Major Territorial Economic Development Initiatives

- The 1999–2000 budget focussed on creating a stronger economy for the Yukon in the year 2000, with \$13.312 million provided specifically for economic development. The goal of the budget is to produce partnerships with the private sector and improve the employment numbers in the North. The focus is on the minerals industry, tourism, and trade and investment.⁷⁵
- Key Ministries: Economic Development
 Renewable Resources
 Community and Transportation Services

Key Territorial Economic Development Programmes

- The Economy 2000 initiative includes two new major funds: the Trade and Investment Fund and the Tourism Marketing Fund, which will both receive \$750,000 in 1999–2000. These funds are to support ideas and activities that will help Yukon business people build the capacity to pursue new opportunities outside the territory.⁷⁶
- The Yukon Government is working in partnership with Yukon groups and organizations to focus public discussion on practical, forward-looking solutions that will lead to a healthier, more diverse economy. There are a series of Economic Forums planned to stimulate thought and provide practical ideas about how to make the Yukon's economy work for everyone. They include round tables, workshops, panel discussions, and a wide variety of guest speakers.⁷⁷
- The Immigrant Investor Fund was created to allow foreign investors who qualify for landed immigrant status to make five-year investments in the Yukon's economy at \$250,000 a share.

⁷⁵ <http://199.247.128.2/depts/finance/budget99-20/index.html>

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷⁷ <http://199.247.128.11/message.html>

- The Yukon Film Incentive Fund, totalling \$175,000, was created to attract film and television production activity to the Yukon.
- The Yukon Mineral Exploration Tax Credit programme provides an income tax refund of 22 percent on eligible expenditures for Yukon exploration on new sites. The fund totals \$2.5 million each year and is meant to encourage mineral exploration in the territory.⁷⁸
- The Yukon Mining Incentive Programme, totalling \$506,000, was created to enhance mineral prospecting, exploration, and development activities in the Yukon. The programme's function is to provide a portion of the risk capital required to locate and explore mineral deposits. It contains three modules: Grassroots—Prospecting; Grassroots—Grubstake (basic operating expenses of up to \$10,000 a year); and Target Evaluation.⁷⁹
- In May 1999, the government released the Yukon Mineral Strategy for public consultation. The strategy has been developed with the expectation that the federal government will transfer responsibilities for minerals and mining to the territorial government in 2000.⁸⁰
- Through the Small Business Investment Tax Credit, Yukon small businesses can apply to receive a 25 percent tax credit to a maximum of \$200,000 per business per year. In total, there is \$1 million available from the province each year.⁸¹
- The proposed Labour-Sponsored Venture Capital Corporation, to be established in early 2000, will allow investors to claim a nonrefundable tax credit of up to \$1,500 a year with a share purchase of \$5,000. The territorial and federal governments would each fund half of this credit.⁸²
- In November 1998, the Yukon government took over the oil and gas resources. Accrued royalties in the Kotaneelee Fund, which have been accumulating since April 1, 1993, amount to approximately \$7.8 million, of which the Yukon First Nations' share is about \$3.9 million. On December 1, 1998, cheques for around \$2.1 million were sent to seven Yukon First Nations: Champagne and Aishihik, Tr'ondek Hwech'in, Little

⁷⁸ <http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/finance/budget99-20/index.html>

⁷⁹ http://www.economicdevelopment.yk.ca/programmes_and_services/resource_based_industries/Yukon_Mining_Incentives_Programme.asp

⁸⁰ http://www.economicdevelopment.yk.ca/resource_investment_opportunities/mining/Mining.asp

⁸¹ <http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/finance/budget99-20/index.html>

⁸² *Ibid.*

Salmon/Carmacks, Nacho Nyak Dun, Selkirk, Teslin Tlingit, and Vuntut Gwitchin.⁸³

The remaining money is being held in trust for the seven First Nations as yet without agreements.

- The Yukon Government and the Yukon's fourteen First Nations have formed a partnership for the purposes of jointly developing a common Yukon-wide oil and gas regime. Under a common regime, Yukon and First Nation governments will each adopt the same legislation and regulations to manage their respective oil and gas resources. Together they have now developed common legislation, the *Yukon Oil and Gas Act* (YOGA), and are presently working towards completion of common oil and gas regulations pursuant to the YOGA.⁸⁴
- The Community Development Fund offers Yukon residents an exciting opportunity—the chance to plan and carry out a project that will improve the quality of community life. The fund provides contributions of up to \$100,000 for projects that will preserve the community infrastructure. The Selkirk First Nation, for example, recently received \$25,000 to develop plans for an addition to their community centre.⁸⁵
- The Youth Investment Fund supports community-driven initiatives aimed at addressing the needs of youth. Kwanlin Dun First Nation recently received funding for a student support worker; the position will be filled by a member of the First Nation community.
- The Yukon Government Fund is in the process of being established under the federal government's Immigrant Investor Programme. The fund will have a pool of capital to invest in commercial activities, which will create new employment opportunities and contribute to the diversification of the Yukon economy. The investments may be made on either a loan or equity basis, but will be guided by sound investment principles.⁸⁶
- The Energy Infrastructure Loans for Resource Development programme is designed to encourage the responsible and efficient use of energy in the development of resources in the Yukon. It assists Yukon's resource development sector by deferring the high capital cost of building energy infrastructure. To be eligible, the project must involve

⁸³ <http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/265.html>

⁸⁴ http://www.economicdevelopment.yk.ca/resource_investment_opportunities/oil_and_gas/first_nations_and_OandG/First_Nations_and_OG.asp

⁸⁵ <http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/259.html>

⁸⁶ [http://www.economicdevelopment.yk.ca/small_business/business_opportunities/Business_Opportunities.asp#Immigrant Investment Fund](http://www.economicdevelopment.yk.ca/small_business/business_opportunities/Business_Opportunities.asp#Immigrant_Investment_Fund)

the development of a resource, or the milling or other processing of a resource in the Yukon. “Resources” includes minerals and energy, agriculture and aquaculture, forestry and silviculture, the freshwater fisheries, and tourism. Expenditures that are eligible for assistance include extensions of the current electrical grid, alternative energy source generation, diesel generation, and heat-recovery infrastructure.⁸⁷

Existing Federal-Territorial Partnerships

- The Yukon Venture Loan Guarantee Programme is an initiative between the Yukon Government’s Department of Economic Development and the Bank of Montreal, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Business Development Bank of Canada, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Dana Naye Ventures, the Royal Bank of Canada, and the Toronto Dominion Bank. This programme guarantees loans for new business start-ups or expansions of businesses registered in the Yukon and paying Yukon corporate taxes that have, or project to have, less than \$5 million in gross revenues and fewer than one hundred employees. Guarantees run from a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$100,000. The guarantee level is 65 percent of the venture loan, principle only, and based on the net loss of the venture loan.⁸⁸

- The Yukon Geology Programme is a joint venture between the geoscience staff of DIAND and the Mineral Resources Branch of the Yukon Territorial Government. Its mandate is to promote sustainable mineral resource development and management in the Yukon Territory through the development of a modern geoscience database. Current projects include Bedrock Geological Mapping, Metallogenic Studies, Placer Studies, Geophysics, Mineral Resource Assessments, Geochemistry, and Environmental Geology.

⁸⁷ http://www.economicdevelopment.yk.ca/programmes_and_services/Economic_Development_Services.asp

⁸⁸ <http://www.economicdevelopment.gov.yk.ca>

Northwest Territories

Statement on Aboriginal Policy

- The government supports the aspirations of Aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories (NWT) to settle their land claims and implement their inherent right to self-government. The government is committed to working with Aboriginal partners and the federal government to settle land claims and self-government issues. By working in partnership with Aboriginal government, economic opportunities can be achieved for everyone.⁸⁹

Major Territorial Economic Development Initiatives

- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is committed to its Agenda for the New North, which emphasizes people, education, and increased economic development. The priorities are outlined in the 1999–2000 budget, the main goal of which is to achieve economic diversification. The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is working to attract diamond manufacturing in the North, with \$1.4 million committed to the establishment of a diamond value-added industry in the region. The government has also committed \$10 million to the upgrade of highways.⁹⁰
- Key Ministries: Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development
Municipal and Community Affairs
Aboriginal Affairs

Key Territorial Economic Development Programmes

- The Community Economic Development Strategy is aimed at facilitating and supporting regional and community-based action to foster sustainable economic development. In order to stimulate increased private sector and community-based job creation activity, communities and regions will be provided with a comprehensive range of support services, including strategic planning, economic research, programme management, and training. These services are designed to help communities build capacity towards a brighter and more self-directed future.
- The Northern Employment Strategy is a two-year programme, in partnership with the departments of Education, Culture, and Employment and Municipal and Community Affairs, to enhance employment through community and business development programmes. The Department of Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development budget is \$8.5 million per year for 1997–98 and 1998–99. Four programmes receive funding

⁸⁹ <http://www.fin.gov.nt.ca/1999budg/1999buaa.html>

⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

under this agreement: the Business Development Fund, the grants to Small Business Programme, the Community Initiatives Programme, and the Community Futures Programme. For the first quarter of 1998–99, programme funding along with client equity and other sources of financing totalled \$9 million.⁹¹ The Community Futures Programme provided advice and financial assistance to local businesses.

- The Business Development Fund (BDF) programme has contributions that provide funding to individual entrepreneurs and small businesses. These programme contributions are grouped into eight schedules, which provide guidelines for the type of assistance available to businesses at different stages of development. In 1997–98, assistance was provided to 336 businesses, of which 251 were Aboriginal. Seventy-five percent of the total approved contributions, in fact, went to Aboriginal businesses. The total contributed was \$4.8 million, which levered an additional \$4.3 million in equity investment and \$15.3 million in other financing, injecting a total of \$24.4 million into the economy.⁹²
- The Community Initiatives Programme provided \$7.5 million for 240 projects to community and regionally based organizations; 95 percent of approvals were to Aboriginal organizations.
- The Prospectors' Grubstake Programme provides partial funding for NWT prospecting projects up to a maximum of \$8,000 per individual per year. Experienced prospectors and/or those who have taken an approved prospecting course are eligible to apply to the programme. The grubstake grants are awarded based on the merits of the proposal and past performance in completing the work requirements of the programme.⁹³
- The Grants to Small Business Programme helps to increase jobs and income by encouraging private business and community development across the Northwest Territories. This programme applies to individual entrepreneurs or small businesses that have a legitimate need for funds, are committed to their future business or activity, and have less than \$500,000 in gross sales.⁹⁴

Existing Federal-Territorial Partnerships

- The Regional Economic Development Agreement and National Infrastructure Programme (NIP) implement joint federal/territorial cost-share programmes. NIP

⁹¹ http://www.gov.nt.ca/cgi-bin/display_ministers_statements.cgi

⁹² http://www.gov.nt.ca/cgi-bin/display_ministers_statements.cgi

⁹³ <http://www.gov.nt.ca/RWED/mog/index.htm>

⁹⁴ <http://www.gov.nt.ca/RWED/ced/index.htm>

committed \$1.379 million and the Government of the Northwest Territories \$1.621 million. NIP was extended to March 31, 1999.

- The West Kitikmeot/Slave Study is a regional study to address the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the mineral development in the Slave Geological Province. There is \$750,000 over five years going to this study.
- The Interim Resource Management Assistance Programme (IRMA) provides interim financial assistance for Aboriginal communities in unsettled claim areas to enable them to participate in resource management decision making. The NWT region received \$1.5 million in funding, \$375,000 from the Government of the Northwest Territories and \$1.125 million from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND).
- The Protected Areas Strategy programme promotes a balanced approach to land-use decisions by incorporating the best available traditional, ecological, cultural, and economic knowledge. It conforms to all land claim, treaty entitlement, and self-government agreements. Responsibility for implementing this strategy will be shared by the federal and territorial governments working in partnerships with communities, regional organizations, and land claims bodies.⁹⁵
- The Yellowknife EXTECH: In March of 1998, an Agreement-in-Principle was reached among GNWT, Natural Resources Canada-Geological Survey of Canada, DIAND, and private-industry partners to develop a proposal for a multi-year, multidisciplinary, integrated and collaborative geoscience programme in the Yellowknife area. The economy of the NWT is based mainly on resources. The most effective long-term strategy for sustaining mining activity in the region involves increasing the quality and quantity of reserves at the current operations, and discovering new deposits in the region. The GSC's EXTECH programme encourages synergies among specialists in the various fields of geology, geophysics, and geochemistry by focussing efforts on understanding the occurrence of a specific deposit type in a specific mining camp and then applying that to other areas.⁹⁶

⁹⁵ "Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy: A Balanced Approach to Establishing Protected Areas in the Northwest Territories," prepared by the NWT Protected Areas Strategy Advisory Committee, February 15, 1999.

⁹⁶ <http://www.extech.yellowknife.nt.ca/>

Nunavut

Statement on Aboriginal Policy

- The Nunavut Government is committed to working with the Nunavut business community to simplify and enhance access to business development and support programmes and to build local employment, while at the same time promoting effective competition.

Major Territorial Economic Development Initiatives

- The government's plan for future programmes was outlined in the Speech from the Throne and The Bathurst Mandate. The government is planning to develop a Nunavut business incentive policy, with our land claims partners, incorporating all the requirements of Article 24; to develop and implement a protocol agreement with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated defining common goals and processes; and to work with others in Nunavut to simplify and enhance access to business support programmes.
- Over the next five years, the Nunavut Government also hopes to conclude agreements with the Government of Canada for public investment in key infrastructure (connectivity, roads, wharves, geoscience, mapping).
- Key Ministries: the Department of Sustainable Development

Federal-Territorial Partnerships

- Currently there are no partnerships between the federal and territorial government concerning economic development, but the government has shown interest in such endeavours.