

Artisan Co-operative Business Development

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Key Objectives

The Artisan Co-operative of Big River First Nation is responding to the need of communities to establish business enterprises to create income and build capacity within the community of artisans. The study will identify key factors that contribute to the success of organizations that face challenges. The main issues include:

- Identifying policies and practices that ensure transparency and accountability are integrated into the organization and are accepted by its members
- Ensuring the executive within the organization is accountable to its members, to its external partners, and to the communities of which BRFN is a part
- Engaging the membership in a way that encourages their participation in the activities of the organization and see the organization as a place of learning and cultural revitalization
- Developing on organizations that serves as a legitimate representative of its members in negotiations with outside bodies such as community, marketing agencies, and funding agencies
- Identifying how organizations move from a largely representative role to playing a greater role in improving the social, cultural, environmental, and economic conditions of Big River First Nation
- Ensuring that the policies and practices adopted by the organization are meaningful to its members
- Assessing if the values of the organization reflect the values of the artisan community
- Understanding how the traditional governance of the artisans can be integrated into the formal governance of the (co-operative) organization and vice versa

Community Partner: Thickwood Hills Business Learning Network

Term: Summer 2007–Summer 2008

Updated 9 April 08 — CL1–20–SK



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Research Council of Canada

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