

**Report on
Canada-Australia Roundtable on Indigenous
Economic Development and Mission to
Australia**

August 27th to September 3rd, 2015



By:

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Vice-Chair

National Aboriginal Economic Development Board

Table of Contents

- A. TRIP DETAILS 4
- B. OVERVIEW 4
- C. MEETINGS WITH INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN AUSTRALIA 5
 - (1) JAWUN INDIGENOUS CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS 5
 - (2) YARN'N ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE 6
 - (3) RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA 7
 - (4) AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER'S INDIGENOUS ADVISORY COUNCIL 9
 - (5) CONSUL GENERAL FOR CANADA..... 10
 - (6) INDIGENOUS BUSINESS AUSTRALIA..... 11
 - (7) THE BATCHELOR INSTITUTE 12
- D. CANADA-AUSTRALIA ROUNDTABLE ON INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 13
- E. SUMMARY 15
- ANNEX A 16

THE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Established in 1990, the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board (NAEDB) is a Governor in Council appointed board mandated to provide policy and program advice to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC), as well as other federal departments, on Aboriginal economic development. Comprised of First Nations, Inuit and Métis community and business leaders from across Canada, the Board plays an important role in helping the federal government develop and implement policies and programs that respond to the unique needs and circumstances of Aboriginal people. The Board also provides a vital link between policy makers, federal departments and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal business and community leaders.

Information about the NAEDB can be found online at: <http://www.naedb-cndea.com>

Board members are:

Chair: Chief Clarence Louie, British Columbia
Chief, Osoyoos Indian Band

Vice-Chair: Dawn Madahbee, Ontario
General Manager, Waubetek Business Development Corporation

Member-at-Large: Chief David Crate, Manitoba
Chief, Fisher River Cree Nation

Member-at-Large: Chief Terrance Paul, Nova Scotia
Chief, Community of Membertou

Darlene Bernard, Prince Edward Island
Former Chief, Lennox Island First Nation

Hilda Broomfield Letemplier, Newfoundland and Labrador
President/Chief Financial Officer, Pressure Pipe Steel Fabrication Ltd.

Dr. Marie Delorme, Alberta
CEO of The Imagination Group of Companies

Adam Fiddler, Ontario
Former Chief, Sandy Lake First Nation

Sharon Stinson Henry, Ontario
Former Chief, Chippewas of Rama First Nation

Ruth Williams, British Columbia
Business Advisor/Project Manager of the Pathways to Technology Project with All Nations Trust Company



A. TRIP DETAILS

At the invitation of the Canadian High Commission in Australia, I participated in an Indigenous Economic Roundtable in Australia on September 2nd and 3rd, 2015. This event was organized by the Canadian High Commission in partnership with the Charles Darwin University located on the northern coast in the port City of Darwin, in the Northern Territory of Australia. The City of Darwin is formally recognized as being the traditional territory of the Larrakia people.

Prior to Roundtable, I attended meetings arranged by the Secretariat to the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board with several Indigenous organizations in the City of Sydney on August 27th and 28th. I also visited the Batchelor Institute, a school in the Northern Territory where the student body is primarily Indigenous. This visit took place on September 1st.

B. OVERVIEW

Australia's Aboriginal people and the Torres Strait Islanders prefer to be referred to collectively as "Indigenous people" as the term "Aboriginal" generally does not include the Torres Strait Islanders. They are also starting to refer to their own communities as "First Nations" as we do in Canada. There are many commonalities and a strong kinship between Aboriginal people from Canada with Australia's Aboriginal people and Australia's Torres Strait Islanders located off the southern coast of that country. We experience many of the same socio-economic issues that have deep roots from our shared history of colonization. Like us, Indigenous people there have the lowest employment rates, poorest health outcomes, highest poverty levels, and low education completion rates.

There is a sense amongst Australia's Indigenous people that the circumstances of Aboriginal people in Canada are much more advanced, but, in some areas, that is not necessarily a reality. There are interesting and progressive initiatives taking place in Australia that recognize the important legacy and rightful place of that country's original peoples.

While there are similarities in our circumstances, some of the notable differences are that Indigenous people there did not enter into treaties nor do they have "reserve" lands as we do in Canada. They do have their own communities/villages, some of which are very remote, but the land boundaries are vague. The communities are generally headed up by Elders.

They have also won some notable court cases in recent times which have provided tracts of land to various tribal groups. They are establishing jurisdiction on these tracts of traditional lands.

Indigenous people in Australia do not have a national registry defining who is "status or First Nation". They are having difficulty defining who is a member of their tribal groups, some of which is a result of what is known as "The Stolen Generations" which is a tragic part of their history where Indigenous children were forcibly removed from their homes and villages between 1910 and 1970. There have also been ongoing attempts to include "Indigenous People" in their Constitution, but at the present time, there is no formal recognition of Indigenous Peoples in the Australian Constitution.

It is notable to mention that the name "Noel Pearson", an Indigenous leader from Australia and the author of several essays and books on Indigenous people, kept coming up during my meetings



there. He has written essays on “Our Right to Take Responsibility” and “A Rightful Place: Race, Recognition and a More Complete Commonwealth”. We may wish to consider inviting this very respected individual to Canada as a guest speaker.

C. MEETINGS WITH INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

On August 27th and 28th, I met with various Indigenous organizations whose offices are located in Sydney, Australia. The following is a summary of those meetings highlighting interesting aspects of their mandates along with some of the results of their work. I have added suggested recommendations for follow-up at the end of each meeting summary.

(1) JAWUN INDIGENOUS CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

I met with Karyn Baylis, the CEO of Jawun. Jawun means “friend” in the Kuku Yalanji language. Jawun is a not-for-profit entity that is supported financially by government, corporate and philanthropic stakeholders. Ms. Baylis has worked with Corporate Australia for many years in senior management and Board positions. She began her work with Jawun when the organization was established in 2001 and she oversees a small staff located in an office donated by one of their corporate sponsors (Westpac). Noel Pearson is the Patron of the organization.

Jawun primarily arranges for skilled, middle-management employees from Australia’s leading companies and government agencies to take on work placements/secondments for 6 weeks with an Indigenous organization or community. The placement includes a one-week orientation session (hosted by Indigenous people) on the history, culture and traditions of the Indigenous people where they are going to be placed. To date, there have been more than two thousand secondees involved in this initiative during the past 14 years. Jawun has Regional Directors who interact in targeted areas where high Indigenous populations exist and therefore an opportunity to establish relationships exists. The Indigenous organizations who wish to take part in the initiative make a request to Jawun which then finds the appropriate sector partner to work with the Indigenous group.

I questioned why they do not, instead, have Indigenous Interns brought into these companies to gain that work experience and understanding of corporate culture. What I learned is that, to large extent, placement of Indigenous interns is a result of these secondments as positive working relationships are built between the companies and the Indigenous groups. The primary intent of the initiative when it started was for Corporate Australia to “give back” through corporate social responsibility to assist the Indigenous people. However, the initiative is also resulting in the development of positive working relationships and improved understanding of Indigenous peoples’ issues. These secondments are fully funded by the companies/corporations involved with no cost to the Indigenous organizations or communities. Another benefit of the program is that secondees help Indigenous organizations and communities build capacity through the development of policy manuals, restructuring, strategic plans, Board training, management training, business mentorship, etc.

The greatest result of this initiative is the growing understanding of Indigenous issues and culture by the non-Indigenous secondees (often middle managers who eventually become senior managers). This is resulting in a growing network and increased connection amongst Indigenous people and Corporate Australia being developed through Jawun. In addition, many Indigenous people now have direct



line connections with the CEO's of major companies who are now hiring and supporting employment of a growing number of Indigenous people. These CEO's are incorporating meaningful policies and practices that support Indigenous people into their business practices.

Jawun is now working with the Business Council of Australia on the development of a national, web-based information sharing tool on Indigenous employment (an HR data-base) to assist in finding Indigenous employees with the skills sets required.

RECOMMENDATION: A recommendation in the Truth and Reconciliation's "Call for Action" recently released in Canada also includes a section on "Business and Reconciliation" which references the need to build relationships between the corporate sector in Canada with Indigenous people here.

With this in mind, and in consideration of the success of Jawun's initiatives, it is recommended that the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business who have corporate partners currently, and/or the Aboriginal Human Resource Council who have sector partners, further research the Jawun corporate partnership model and consider a similar initiative in Canada. It is further suggested that similar stakeholders be sought from the government, corporate and philanthropic sectors to support this initiative.

(2) YARN'N ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

I met with Deborah Nelson, an Indigenous woman, with the Yarn'n Aboriginal Employment Service, an employment agency that she personally owns. Deborah is passionate about finding employment for Indigenous people. Eighty percent of her staff are Indigenous. Yarn'n primarily services the City of Sydney.

In Australia, their federal government has set-up private, Indigenous-owned employment agencies who receive a financial incentive of \$6,000 for every individual for whom they find employment and who must hold their jobs for at least six (6) months. This is a different approach to the system in Canada where there is a network of Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Associations (ASETA's) that are not-for-profit organizations that primarily fund individual training programs.

There are 29 such Indigenous-owned agencies located throughout Australia. These agencies leverage State (Provincial) training funds to certify individuals in workplace safety or food handling, etc. and then the agency provides in-house training on work ethics, personal budgeting, cultural teachings, interview skills and other general life skills. They also provide in-house counselling to their clients and help with finding them a place to live, furnishings, etc. Last year, Yarn'n found jobs for more than 200 Indigenous people and they have a 90% job retention rate.



Ms. Nelson shared one of their success stories about a homeless Indigenous man living in the streets of Sydney. They spent their own agency funds to assist him by finding him a place to live, paying for his first month's rent, purchasing a fridge, bed and clothing for him. They involved him in the training programs and found him a placement working with people who have HIV/AIDS. Because of his own difficult experiences, he was found to be very empathetic, compassionate and caring in his work with the patients. He became one of the best employees at his workplace and he found meaning for himself. He has now been employed there for three and a half years. She also spoke about another project where they found jobs for 3 young Indigenous women as horse groomers at a major racing track stable. These young women have now been employed there for more than two years and they love their job. The primary focus of these agencies is on job placement with training as a support while in Canada, for the most part, our focus is on training with the hope of job placements. It should also be mentioned that Yarn'n is in contact with Jawun on potential job opportunities through their work with the corporate sector.

RECOMMENDATION: I believe that there is significant potential for a model like Yarn'n in Canada. As such, I recommend that three pilot projects be established in Canada through Employment and Skills Development Canada. The pilot projects should use or establish an Aboriginal-owned employment agency model, be based on incentive funding, with a goal of first providing basic marketable skills and then finding job placements for unemployed or underemployed Aboriginal people.

(3) RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA

My meetings with Reconciliation Australia were with Karen Mundine, Deputy CEO, an Indigenous Woman, and Darryl Monaghan, General Manager of the Reconciliation Action Plan Program.

In Australia, there has not been a Truth and Reconciliation Commission as there has been in Canada, but an organization called "Reconciliation Australia" has been established as an independent, national not-for-profit organization to promote reconciliation by building relationships, respect and trust between the wider Australian community and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples. They plan to undertake a full historical documentation of the Indigenous peoples' and the colonial history in the future. For now, their aim is to inspire and enable all Australians to contribute to reconciliation and break down the stereotypes and eliminate discrimination.



The establishment of Reconciliation Australia was the result of a Royal Commission into the deaths of incarcerated Indigenous people 24 years ago but the organization itself was only established 15 years ago. The Royal Commission recommended a process of reconciliation be set up. As a result, a group of 25 Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders are now part of a legislated Council to oversee this initiative.

As part of this process, they were fortunate to have a respected leader from Corporate Australia publicly challenge other entities to incorporate reconciliation into their everyday work places. To date, this challenge has resulted in the establishment of more than 600 Reconciliation Action Plans (RAP) from Corporate Australia and all levels of government which are now publicly posted on the Reconciliation Australia website. As part of the process, there is a requirement for all participating entities to also post their progress on the Reconciliation Australia website in terms of meeting the targets they set and initiatives that they included in their RAP's. Reconciliation Australia is now grappling with developing a means to measure this success and take these reconciliation plans to the next level.

One of the many examples provided was the initiative of Australia Post who have installed signage within each post office across the country indicating which Indigenous traditional territory they are located on. Having all the RAP's publicly posted on this website for all 600 entities, including mining companies, is a great source of information for building Aboriginal/ corporate/ government relations in Canada.

Reconciliation Australia is also working on a new national curriculum framework that all States will be required to implement. This includes teacher guides to help teachers gain knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Indigenous people, culture, history, and traditions. While cultural training is not mandatory at the present time, they have created incentives for those teachers who do participate.

Reconciliation Australia also hosts Annual Indigenous Governance Awards in order to recognize good governance within communities and Indigenous organizations to highlight the importance of good governance. They also published a brochure that outlines the "economic case for change". The brochure contains facts and figures produced by Deloitte Access Economics who projected the potential impact on the Australian economy in 2031 if the gaps in social and economic outcomes between Indigenous Australians and other Australians were closed. They predicted, among other results, that the GDP would grow 1.15% to \$24 billion and government budgets would increase by \$11.9 billion.

The progress towards reconciliation that has been made in Australia is tangible. More jobs have been created for Indigenous people as have more business partnerships. But the greatest accomplishment is the positive change in the mindset that is occurring.

RECOMMENDATION: In Canada's "Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action", there is a call to have the Parliament of Canada enact legislation to establish a National Council for Reconciliation as an independent, national oversight body with membership jointly appointed by the Government of Canada and national Aboriginal organizations, consisting of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members. There is also a recommendation to work with Corporate Canada. There exists a model for such a body upon which Canada can build. It is important that at every opportunity, the Government of Canada be reminded of these important recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that released their Calls to Action this year. In fact, real economic progress can be better attained in Canada when true reconciliation is embedded as part of everyday business amongst Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people alike.

That the NAEDB also commission a report on the potential economic impact of closing the socio-economic gap between Aboriginal people and mainstream Canada.



(4) AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER'S INDIGENOUS ADVISORY COUNCIL



I met with Mr. Warren Mundine who is the Chair of the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council. This advisory council is similar in some ways to the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board with the exception of two things: 1) the council deals with all Indigenous matters in Australia, not just economic development; and 2) the Prime Minister attends and Co-Chairs all the meetings which take place three times a year.

Mr. Mundine speaks and texts with the Prime Minister of Australia regularly. The advisory council was established in 2013 and is supported by a Secretariat funded by the government. In speaking with Mr. Mundine, it appears that this advisory council has built a bridge of camaraderie and understanding with the Prime Minister and senior Ministers on Indigenous issues. The Prime Minister hears first hand of the recommendations of the advisory council and open dialogue is promoted. The Indigenous representatives bring a variety of knowledge in terms of

education, law, business and regional matters to the table. The Prime Minister has included the advisory council in many functions and invites Mr. Mundine to share the advisory council's views at many events. It is still at the formative stage where the advice provided or decisions made are not yet published on their website, but Mr. Mundine has expressed that it is their intention to publish this information and the work of the council in the near future. They have provided me with a copy of the Indigenous Procurement Policy that their advisory council has developed.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board (NAEDB) invite the Prime Minister and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to participate as Co-Chairs of the NAEDB along with our own Chair. They would learn firsthand about the solutions and positive direction in which the Aboriginal people in Canada wish to embark through this approach in direct engagement.

RECOMMENDATION: Mr. Mundine and I also spoke about the possibility of having our respective governments support the establishment of an Indigenous People's Economic Summit during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forums to allow Indigenous people to share economic initiatives and possibly develop international partnerships. It is recommended that the NAEDB provide this recommendation to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.



(5) CONSUL GENERAL FOR CANADA

I met with Mario St-Marie who is the Consul General with the Consulate General of Canada in Australia along with Trade Commissioner Marie-Louise Hannan and their head of Public Affairs, Culture and Communications, Sharon Pinney. I briefly shared with them the work of the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board and the Aboriginal Financial Institutions in Canada. I also shared a summary of the good work I learned from Indigenous organizations in Australia. The Consul General's office expressed appreciation in learning about these Indigenous efforts and organizations from both the Canadian and Australian perspective as these matters are not generally known to them. Their focus has been primarily been on business and trade, and, as such they were very interested in learning about indigenous business and trade.



For my meeting there, the Trade Commissioner had arranged for an Indigenous business woman, Jasmin Herro, to meet with me at their office. Jasmin is a mining supplier who regularly attends the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) event held annually in Toronto which is considered the world's largest mining tradeshow. She provided a copy of the Australian Indigenous Procurement Policy explaining that this policy has assisted her business. She also spoke highly about the US National Minority Supplier Development Council through which she has also obtained certification to procure US contracts. She indicated that she knows of no Canadian Aboriginal suppliers in these networks. She also explained how Australia has little to no manufacturing sector due primarily to their proximity to Asian manufacturers. Much of her supplies are also produced in China and she has learned to navigate international contracting. We have agreed to stay in touch to support possible business ties

amongst Aboriginal mining suppliers in both Countries.

The Consul General's head of Public Affairs, Culture and Communications advised me that they had supported the arrangement of logistics for some Canadian Aboriginal music artists who attended an international showcase held there in Australia with booking agents for music festivals from around the world. It turns out they also assisted one of Waubetek's clients to participate in this event.

RECOMMENDATION: That consideration be given to providing Consul General offices in targeted regions of the world with briefing materials, information and links on Indigenous matters.

That AANDC compare the respective Canadian and Australian Indigenous Procurement Policy to determine best practices and approaches.

That AANDC determine whether or not there are ways that the Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council can better benefit Aboriginal business suppliers.



(6) INDIGENOUS BUSINESS AUSTRALIA

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) has “the vision for a Nation in which the First Australians are economically independent and an integral part of the economy”. The organization is a statutory authority of the Australian Government and is accountable to the Parliament and the Minister for Indigenous Affairs. It works in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples.

IBA is a contributor to the Australian Government’s Indigenous Advancement Strategy, which aims to close the gap between the living standards of Indigenous and other Australians. IBA’s focus in this regard is home and business ownership as well as joint investment of IBA funds for future needs. IBA has been around since 2001. It is now involved in 19 business ventures and holds equity investments in 15 of them. The equity has been primarily invested in major resource development companies and tourism businesses. IBA’s involvement sometimes results in Indigenous representation on Boards of Directors for the companies in which they have an equity investment and Indigenous supplier contracts. Last year, Aboriginal businesses in Australia procured contracts valued at \$3.35M. IBA has just over \$1B in assets, in addition to 556 housing loans and 75 business loans. In order to help build their investment portfolio overall, IBA has also developed an Indigenous Real Estate Investment Trust, purchasing commercial real estate in major centres near areas of large Indigenous populations. Their business loan programs have had difficulties for many of the same reasons experienced in Canada such as lack of equity available to Aboriginal clients due to low incomes, lack of business management skills, no economic infrastructure to support businesses, etc. which they are also seeking to further address.



I met with their CEO, Chris Fry, who has been with the organization for 4 years and who brings over 25 years of extensive banking experience. He was also the Chair of the Indigenous Land Corporation’s Mossman Gorge Development Steering Committee and a Board member of the Indigenous Tourism Leadership Group. Prior to this, he was seconded to work with an Aboriginal organization through the Jawun Indigenous Corporate Partnership, helping him to gain an appreciation and understanding of Indigenous issues. He has visited Canada a few times to present on the work of IBA to various Aboriginal groups. IBA has opened many doors to involving Australia’s Indigenous people in the mainstream economy through their efforts. They also publish a magazine known as “Inspire” that showcases the individual success stories of home and business ownership by Indigenous people there.

RECOMMENDATION: That an ongoing working relationship be built with IBA in order to share ideas to address the similar issues and challenges we face. While we already have the AFI’s providing business loans to Aboriginal people in Canada, it is also suggested that we look at the programming and services of IBA to determine whether there are components that can be developed and/or adapted here in Canada, particularly in relation to equity investments in major projects and the real estate investment trust. There are also Aboriginal housing initiatives in Canada, but a review of the IBA housing program is recommended in order to determine other possible alternate housing services and alternate forms of housing loans.



(7) THE BATCHELOR INSTITUTE



I was invited to attend a visit to a school in Batchelor, a small town in the Northern Territory, where 60% of the children and youth are Indigenous. The school is actually a college or training institute, but they have classrooms for elementary students too as the school started as a residential program for whole families to attend. The Indigenous youth attend the school from surrounding villages, plus the older youth come from various parts of Australia to study.

The Batchelor Institute is headed by an Indigenous man, Robert Somerville, who has a strong educational background and he is passionate about assisting Indigenous learning and achievement. They have a variety of programs based on the needs of the Northern Territory including conservation officer

certification, hospitality, the arts, business, etc.

Part of what makes this institute unique is their focus on promoting cross-cultural understanding. One of the practices the school incorporated is that all students wear the same shirts (not quite a uniform) as a symbol of unity and sameness, but cultural understanding is infused in all their programs which seems to work very well. While the school is successful in graduating the youth from their programs, the principal advised that attendance for primary grades was an issue for those students who travelled in from the Indigenous villages, primarily due to social issues in the home. Some elementary students were missing 60% of their classes. We discussed some ways to address those issues through after-school programming and other supports.



RECOMMENDATION: That a working relationship be promoted between the Batchelor Institute with such academic institutions such as the First Nation University in Saskatchewan, and/or First Nation post-secondary schools, for the purposes of sharing information, best practices, etc. I believe it would be particularly helpful to share ideas to help address the similar issues and challenges we face.



D. CANADA-AUSTRALIA ROUNDTABLE ON INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The roundtable was scheduled over two days and focused on economic development, and other issues included policing and defense (A copy of the Roundtable Program is attached for reference). We met in Darwin, Australia at the Northern Australia Development Office for the Northern Territory. The process undertaken was that a presentation would be made by a lead presenter on a specific topic to the group of about 20 people and a group discussion would ensue. Australia's Minister for Indigenous Affairs and Canada's High Commissioner to Australia attended the first afternoon.

I headed up two sessions as requested by the organizers as follows:

1) The work of the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board was provided along with the work of Waubetek and the Aboriginal Financial Institutions' network. I also spoke generally about Aboriginal businesses. The group was very interested in the types of Aboriginal-owned businesses that exist and the level of financing that has been provided. As noted previously, one of the only sources of Indigenous business financing in Australia is through IBA and the number of investments to date is limited, but growing; and

2) Community Infrastructure Investment was also of interest to the group based on our Northern Infrastructure Roundtable held earlier this year. The Northern Territory government representatives were very interested due to their similar circumstances. They appreciated learning of the significant potential return on government investment. They too have challenges with remoteness, road infrastructure, and broadband technology in the Northern Territory. Much dialogue and sharing occurred as a result.



Other economic development topics that were presented included:

1) Indigenous Employment and Indigenous Entrepreneurship: This presentation spoke to the need to encourage entrepreneurship and self-employment to help address their significant unemployment issues. Discussion took place on the various programs that exist in both Australia and Canada to help address these issues, including the regional Aboriginal Financial Institution model here in Canada;



2) Demography Matters: Critical Population-related Opportunities and Challenges for Indigenous Economic Development which spoke about the difficulties throughout the Australian North with respect to remoteness of many Indigenous villages and the sparse populations (again similar to Canada's north). Service delivery, infrastructure, transportation are all issues experienced there as well; and

3) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage: Cultural Production and Regional Economies in Eastern Arnhem Land and the Western Desert - Sustainable Development. This presentation spoke about a study in the north-west part of Australia where stats were provided on how significant the Indigenous economy there is reliant on the sales of arts, crafts, and music. While the income is very modest, it is often the primary income for most Indigenous people there, not unlike Canada's north. The preliminary study results provided were based on individual surveys completed in that region. The Arctic Co-op example in Canada could be a model built upon there.

The balance of the roundtable was on security and the military. Representatives from Canada included the head of the Aboriginal Unit of the RCMP Sergeant Kurt Kamotzki, the head of the Canadian Aboriginal Veterans Association Mr. Richard Blackwolf and several of the Canadian Rangers who are involved in volunteer services mainly in the Arctic and Western Canada. As Indigenous policing is an issue in Australia, their Australian counterparts were involved in the roundtable to share some of their best practices. Many of the issues stem from the poor socio-economic situation of Indigenous people in both countries. I listened in on this topic as well and learned much about policing in both countries (which included an update on the RCMP's work on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women).

The Canadian High Commission also took the opportunity to promote Canada while in Darwin. There was a showing of a documentary of the Arctic Coop and their work with Inuit people. A reception was also held to showcase iconic photos of Canadian scenery. A military ceremony was also held to commemorate Canada's presence in Darwin at the end of WWII. I took advantage of these opportunities to meet many people there who are keenly interested in Canada. Overall, the roundtable was a great opportunity to share the different approaches taken and new initiatives created to address the similar needs of Indigenous people in both countries. There are many initiatives that can be modified and built upon to benefit our respective countries.

RECOMMENDATION: Maintaining connections made amongst the participants involved in the roundtable will be very helpful to both countries going forward. The aims, hopes, and ideals are very much the same amongst the Indigenous peoples of both countries. The Australians have been creative in addressing the many issues they face and, vice-versa, we have taken some creative approaches which we can share with them.

I would also recommend that Canada host a roundtable specifically on other economic sectors going forward, such as resource and energy development.

With almost every person I met, we spoke about the need to stay connected and to include our counterparts from New Zealand and the U.S., amongst others, in an international network. With technology, we can begin to introduce like organizations with each other. If the NAEDB, or myself personally, can assist with this possibility, I would highly recommend that we make the effort.



E. SUMMARY

I collected a significant amount of information in the form of reports, brochures, presentations and publications that were given to me to share. I would appreciate some suggestions on the best way to share/distribute this information.

To summarize, this trip provided a wealth of ideas and allowed me an opportunity to see the results of their many initiatives firsthand. There is much that can be shared amongst not only the Indigenous people of both lands, but also between the government agencies and the corporate sector who wish to promote meaningful progress in partnership with Indigenous peoples. It is hoped that these recommendations are helpful and can be built upon to take new approaches or enhance existing measures in a positive and engaged direction.

With respect to this opportunity overall, I wish to express special thanks to the Canadian High Commissioner, Paul Maddison, and his staff as well as the Secretariat of the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board for all the assistance and support provided to me for this business trip. I also wish to thank Waubetek for allowing me the time to participate in this international event. I cannot overstate the value of the information, ideas and inspiration I received during my brief stay in Australia and I look forward to promoting the advancement of Indigenous people from both countries wherever possible.



ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM

Canada-Australia Roundtable on Indigenous Economic Development

High Commission of Canada in partnership with Charles Darwin University

Dates and times

- 1.00pm (for 1.30pm start) to 5.15pm Wednesday 2 September 2015
- 8.15am (for 8.30am start) to 5.20pm Thursday 3 September 2015

Venue: Territory Conference Room, Northern Australia Development Office, Ground Floor, Development House, 76 The Esplanade, Darwin.

Map: [76 The Esplanade, Darwin](#)

Parking: The Mitchel Centre is the closest secure parking: <http://www.mitchellcentre.com.au/parking.html>

Overview

The Roundtable has been developed by the High Commission of Canada in partnership with the Australian Centre for Indigenous Knowledges and Education (ACIKE) at Charles Darwin University (CDU). Professor Steven Larkin, Director of ACIKE, and PVC Indigenous Leadership at CDU, is our Chair for the Roundtable (on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning). Mr Nigel Browne, CEO, Larrakia Development Corporation, will chair the Thursday afternoon session. By bringing together Canadian and Australian leaders and researchers the roundtable provides the opportunity to identify important comparative insights into issues of shared concern for Indigenous communities, and in particular for remote Indigenous communities in both the Canadian North and the Australian North.

Aim of the Roundtable

The primary aim of the Roundtable is information sharing, and in general terms, to identify approaches which contribute to the economic development and wellbeing of Indigenous communities, with a particular emphasis on remote communities in Canada and Australia. The program covers a range of topics, however, there are many connections between these, so it is expected that participants will want to contribute to discussion in each session, from their perspective. Participants may want to consider the following general questions, however discussion need not be restricted to them:

- What is happening now? What are the gaps or opportunities?
- What facilitates success? (e.g., developments in Indigenous participation and leadership, developing community infrastructure, community capacity building, etc.)
- What impedes success?
- What are the components of a strategic approach?



Roundtable Participants

Roundtable Opening

High Commissioner to Australia, His Excellency Mr Paul Maddison

Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Australian Federal Government

Ms Bilawara Lee, Elder of the Larrakia Nation of Darwin

Attendees

Professor Steven Larkin (Roundtable Chair), Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership, and Director of the Australian Centre for Indigenous Knowledges and Education (ACIKE) at Charles Darwin University

Ms Dawn Madahbee (Keynote speaker), Vice Chair, National Aboriginal Economic Development Board (Canada), and General Manager, Waubetek Business Development Corporation

Ms Bridgette Bellenger, Executive Director, Northern Australia Development Office (NADO), Northern Territory Government

Mr Richard Blackwolf, President, Canadian Aboriginal Veterans and Serving Members Association

Mr Nigel Browne (Roundtable Chair for Thursday afternoon), CEO, Larrakia Development Corporation, Darwin

Mr Glynn Greenaway, Director of Indigenous Affairs, Department of Defence (Australia)

Captain Wade Jones and representatives of the Canadian Rangers (Wednesday program)

Sergeant Kurtis (Kurt) Kamotzki, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) National Aboriginal Policing Services

Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation representatives: Directors Mr Darryn Wilson and Ms Sharmane Siebert, and LNAC members Mr Tibby Quall and Ms Donna Jackson.

Ms Katya Petetskaya, Project coordinator, National Survey of Remote Indigenous Artists in Australia, Macquarie University

Ms Lisa Siebert, Australian Federal Police (AFP) Northern Territory, and Chair, Secretary and McLennan family representative for the Board of Directors of the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation

Dr Andrew Taylor, Senior Research Fellow, Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University

Professor David Throsby AO, Distinguished Professor, Economics, Macquarie University

Northern Territory Police Commander Katherina (Kate) Vanderlaan, Indigenous Employment, Recruitment and Selections (to be advised)

High Commission of Canada in Canberra

Colonel Acton Kilby, Canadian Defence Advisor

Peter Lambertucci, Police Liaison Officer (Counsellor), Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

Mary Lou Hayman, Manager, Academic Relations and Public Affairs

Karen May, Assistant Manager, Academic Relations

Dean Barry, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)

Tony DosSantos, Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)



Roundtable Program

Day 1 - Wednesday 2 September

1.00pm–1.30pm participants to arrive at the venue

1.30pm–2.00pm Opening of the Roundtable

- MC welcome
- Welcome to country, Ms Bilawara Lee, Larrakia Elder
- Professor Steven Larkin, Charles Darwin University
- Opening of the Roundtable by Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs
- High Commissioner to Australia, His Excellency Mr Paul Maddison

2.00–2.30pm Afternoon tea

2.30pm–4.10pm Session 1: *Indigenous participation in the defence forces, and policing in remote communities*

- Opening remarks from Professor Larkin and introduction of the first session.
- Captain Wade Jones, Canadian Rangers, Presentation (30 minutes)
- *Roundtable discussion* (20 minutes)
- Presentation by Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)/NT police (30 minutes)
- *Roundtable discussion* (20 minutes)

4.10pm–5.00pm Session 2: *Keynote speaker*

- Dawn Madahbee, introducing her work with the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board (Canada), and as General Manager, Waubetek Business Development Corporation (25 minutes)
- *Roundtable questions/discussion* (25 minutes)

5.00–5.15pm Professor Larkin closes first day

Day 2 - Thursday 3 September

8.15am–8.30am participants arrive

8.30am–9.30am Session 1

Ms Dawn Madahbee, *Community infrastructure investment*

9.30am–11.00am Session 2

Professor Steven Larkin, Mr Nigel Browne and Dr Andrew Taylor, *Indigenous Employment & Indigenous Entrepreneurship*

- Professor Steven Larkin, *Indigenous Employment*
- Mr Nigel Browne, the work of the *Larrakia Development Corporation*



- Dr Andrew Taylor, *Demography matters: critical population related opportunities and challenges for Indigenous economic development*

11.00am–11.20am **Morning tea**

11.20am–12.00 **Session 3**

Ms Bridgette Bellenger, *NT Government Perspectives/White Paper on Northern Development/ Indigenous Economic Development Conference, Alice Springs, October 2015.*

12.00–1.00pm **Session 4**

Professor David Throsby and Ms Katya Petetskaya, *The value of Aboriginal cultural heritage: cultural production and regional economies in Eastern Arnhem Land and the Western Desert/ and sustainable development.*

1.00pm–1.45pm **Lunch**

1.45pm–2.30.00pm **Session 5**

Mr Glynn Greenaway, *Australian Defence's Indigenous programs and initiatives*

2.30pm–3.15pm **Session 6**

Sergeant Kurtis (Kurt) Kamotzki RCMP/NT police, *policing in remote communities – The Safe Home/Safe Community program and economic development*

3.15pm–3.45pm **Afternoon tea**

3.45pm–5.15pm **Plenary session**

5.15pm–5.20pm **Roundtable close (Mr Nigel Browne)**





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