

FCM Toolkit for First Nations-Municipal Community Economic Development Partnerships

The **Federation of Canadian Municipalities** (FCM), in partnership with **Cando**, developed a toolkit that shares the stories and lessons learned from 16 communities across Canada that are part of the joint First Nations-municipal **Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI)**. In Alberta, the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River, the Town of Slave Lake and Sawridge First Nation partnered to develop a joint communications policy and a regional tourism marketing strategy that included a focus on cultural tourism, and pooled their resources to hire a joint economic development officer to implement their plans.

The toolkit, **Stronger Together**, includes many examples of how First Nations and municipalities partnered to improve economic development in their regions. Some examples of tools in the toolkit include:

- Assessment tool for readiness for joint community economic development;
- How to write an easy and appropriate invitation letter;
- Coordinating joint key messages; and
- Creation of a friendship accord.

The toolkit also includes a useful glossary in Appendix D. Here are a few examples of the terms:

- **Aboriginal self-government:** A government that has been designed and implemented by Aboriginal peoples.
- **Band:** A body of Indians as defined under the Indian Act and declared to be a band by the Governor General in Council for the purposes of the Act. The term First Nation is often used in place of band.
- **Band council resolution:** A written decision made by a band council. The decision is made during a council meeting and must have the majority support of council members
- **Friendship Accord:** A type of agreement that publicly declares two or more communities' commitment to maintaining a long-term friendship.
- **Treaty:** An agreement between the federal government and a First Nation that defines the rights of the First Nation with respect to lands and resources over a specified area and may also define the self-government authority of a First Nation

While CEDI is not currently intaking any more applications for funding under the program, there are more resources to help you get started if you are interested – and they are only *8 pages each!*

- **[Stronger Together Toolkit-at-a-Glance](#)**
- **[First Nation-Municipal Land Use Planning Tool](#)**

If you have any questions about the program, contact Helen Patterson, CEDI Program Manager, hpatterson@fcm.ca or 613.907.6320.

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