



**January 2023**

**Report on Community Economic Development (CED) Projects for Mississauga First Nation**

*A reminder for community members (on-reserve and off-reserve): We are a resource for your business ideas and can assist/guide you through the various phases. This includes support for business plan creation, identifying funding opportunities (start-up & growth options), expanding your network or learning about new support options available to you and your business.*

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

Our directive from chief and council is to facilitate sustainable economic opportunities for MFN to grow. We facilitate this by evaluating opportunities, gathering inputs from other departments and committees and formalize a strategy that meets the needs of the community. We are happy to hear from you on ways we can continue improving this strategy.

**STRATEGIC GOALS:**

25 YEAR GOAL – A self-sufficient nation with a regulated economy that covers the costs of programs with zero dependencies on federal and provincial governments. (PENDING FINAL C&C APPROVAL)

**CHIBLOW LAKE LODGE:**

Bookings are available through our Chiblow Lake Lodge website ([www.chiblowlakelodge.com](http://www.chiblowlakelodge.com)). We are committed to identifying new ways to boost the profile of the campground by adding new features that will enhance your stay with us. Our team continuously looks for opportunities to address repairs and renovations, new builds and asset purchases. Our approach to updating the operating plan and business model will help us facilitate current day expectations and experiences that people look for at our campground. If you would like to share your inputs about ways to improve the campground, please send us an email. Also, let us know if you'd like to be included in ongoing conversations about the business.

**CREEKSIDE CANNABIS:**

Creekside will be sharing information about it's 2021-22 fiscal year performance early in 2023. An AGM notice will be going out to the community for those interested in learning about the business. Operations are overseen by the Mississaugi Retail Cannabis Corporation. Profits will flow into the community to address programming and service needs with.

**MARKETING:**

SPOTS AVAILABLE. Advertise your businesses at our community's entrance installation. Please contact the EcDev Office to learn more about how you can have your business represented here. We are always looking for ways to promote the businesses in our community. This includes identifying funding that helps us address community's branding image and presence in larger markets. We are proposing a strategy to incorporate MFN branding, Anishinaabe and imagery in a shared signage with the town of Blind River, please let us know if you have ideas you would like to see implanted through this opportunity.



### **COMMUNITY TRAIL SYSTEM:**

Our shared trail network with Blind River got attention at the 2022 Ontario Tourism Resiliency Awards. We received honours in the Winter category and for Indigenous Tourism Operator. We share thanks with our partners at Destination Northern Ontario (DNO) and Indigenous Tourism Ontario (ITO). We have ideas for new trail projects in 2023 and ask for your inputs to inform next steps. Message us.

### **COMMUNITY BAND MEMBER STARTUPS:**

We continue to work with band members seeking to start their own businesses. Check out the EcDev page on the mississaugi.com website to learn more about how to pursue business start-up supports.

### **BAND AQUACULTURE BUSINESS:**

Our project management team awaits news on next steps from our funding applications. MFN approved its financial contributions to the total cost of the project in October 2022. Once our funding matrix is confirmed, we'll be able to proceed with an official announcement and construction period in the spring. Stay tuned for more as updates will be very fluid over the next several weeks.

### **SKY CANOE**

In November 2022, we had Sky Canoe conduct an info session for the community to learn about the ways the company is seeking to address ways to connect rural and remotes parts of the province to each other via air drone technology and logistics. This in an emerging industry and all possibilities are on the table. Of note, individual band members can start their own small business in partnership with Sky Canoe to connect businesses, services, First Nations, municipalities and people across the North.

### **COMMUNITY GITIGAN:**

We are in our off-season. Our team had a productive season at the gitigan site in 2022. A new growing dome was installed thanks to a grant from the Local Food Infrastructure Fund (LFIF) and with support from Green Iglu. We were able to plant, grow and deliver a variety of produce to the community's food pantry as crops became available. We anticipate a full year of growing starting this spring. Also, we had an end of season harvest that was delivered and incorporated into meals provided to community members during the Fall Gathering at Chiblow Lake in October 2022. We are always accessing grants to improve our offerings in the community, especially as the sector develops new and efficient ways to grow, process and store crops as they become ready for harvest.

In 2023, we hope to form an Agriculture Committee that builds off the success of the gitigan project. We have noted emerging interest from community members who wish to explore various business opportunities such as maple syrup production, beekeeping, raising livestock, greenhouse production and more. There is also an interest from individuals to learn how to start and manage their own gardens. If you have an interest in any of these topics, please consider joining our Agriculture committee to begin having in-depth conversations about how we can address local business growth and food security initiatives for the community.

For more info on these initiatives, please send us a message:

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