



May 2019

Mississauga First Nation

Community Economic Development Department

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Community Report on Economic Development Projects for Mississauga First Nation

Below is a list of the projects and portfolios that the MFN Economic Development Department has been tasked with over the past year. We'd like to remind community members that we are a resource you can approach if you have business ideas you'd like input on, if you need help with developing a business plan, if you require assistance in identifying funding opportunities for your business endeavour or if you want help with networking to grow your individual capacity.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC DIRECTION

According to input from Chief and Council, our mandated direction is to facilitate sustainable growth opportunities for the community to prosper. Our goal is to bring significant businesses to Mississauga First Nation that has sustainability and meets the skill set of the community.

STRATEGIC GOALS:

TWO YEAR GOAL: Foster four band member businesses' that have sustainability and meets the skill set of the community. Develop a branding position for MFN to build community awareness of MFN. Further, develop meaningful relationships with the Mississauga Nation collective. Maintain meaningful dialogue and with the mini-collective that features Lands and Resource Dept. reps and Economic Development reps from Sagamok Anishnawbek and Serpent River First Nation to foster significant sustainable economic activities across shared our shared treaty territory.

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 APPROVAL FROM CHIEF AND COUNCIL)

CHIBLOW LAKE LODGE:

Bill Jackpine, our lodge manager, is beginning his second year managing the campground. Elders have the opportunity to spend time at the lodge for free during various times across the operating season. The Chiblow Lake Fishing Derby is scheduled for August 24, 2019. Bookings can now be accommodated via online booking through the Chiblow Lake Lodge website at www.chiblowlakelodge.com. The Economic Development team is also committed to securing additional funding to complete repairs and renovations to the campground, cabins and new building to better facilitate enjoyable experiences for families, retreats, and community members who wish to spend time at the lake.



CANNABIS:

The Economic Development team is involved in coordinating with each band department and committee to outline legal compliances for bringing a cannabis market to Mississauga First Nation in a safe, responsible and beneficial capacity. This work is also aided by the strategic goals outlined by Chief and Council as well as the community's strategic plan. Some roles include interfacing with government representatives to ensure Mississauga First Nation, the province of Ontario and most importantly, the community. We aim to develop strong working relationships with all parties to benefit band members.

MFN ENTRANCE SIGN:

We are pleased with the interest and attention for the sign at the Park Road entrance. This has created a demand for more development to the area. We are currently working on strategies and identifying funding that will help us deliver on these expectations. Some of these goals include adding additional signage blocks for community members both on-reserve and off-reserve to advertise their businesses. We will also be looking for volunteers to assist in manicuring the highway facing land to make our community more presentable to passing traffic.

COMMUNITY TRAIL SYSTEM:

Last fall, the Economic Development team completed the East-West walking trail that connects Youngfox Road in Blind River to Eldorado Road. This trail was made for bikers and adventurers to explore portions of the old Highway 17 and also for the benefit of establishing a critical alternative for people who don't wish to use the highway for pedestrian travel. This trail was completed as a partnership with the Town of Blind River and the Blind River Ski Club with support from Destination Northern Ontario. Funding was received from Trans-Canada Trail, Aboriginal Trail Tourism, FedNor and Cameco.

Our next steps include identifying funding to complete a North-South trail. A PR activity is planned for later this spring to support FedNor and TCT funding criteria. A coordinated PR event with Blind River is also planned for the end of July to support a bicycle tour.

COMMUNITY BAND MEMBER START UPS:

We continue to work and find opportunities for band members who wish to start businesses on reserve. A lack of serviced land is a barrier for many. We continue to work with the Lands & Resources Dept. and Infrastructure Dept. to tackle these issues, but this will be a priority that requires significant funding and time commitments from all departments. We will be periodically advertising in the weekly flier on what the Economic Development Department can do to help band members in this area. Also, be sure to check the Economic Development page on the MFN web site for bulletins.

BAND AQUACULTURE BUSINESS:

The lot is now cleared and nearly shovel ready. Testing of the water wells were undertaken late in 2018. Additional tests and expert input are still required for quality assurance, but phase 1 progress is nearly complete. CIRNAC's grant for \$1M in project funding will help us meet additional development targets.



LANDS AND EC. DEV. MINI COLLECTIVE:

The Land & Resources Dept. and Economic Development staff from Sagamok Anishnawbek, Serpent River FN and Mississauga FN engages in ongoing dialogue to determine what kind of impact benefit agreements are best for the shared territory we live on. These meetings are held monthly to identify joint activities that aim to create transparency, share resources and create new revenue streams from proponents who wish to access First Nations lands and resources.

MISSISSAUGA NATION COLLECTIVE:

A collective between the communities of Alderville FN, Curve Lake FN, Hiawatha FN, Mississaugas of Scugog FN, Mississaugas of New Credit FN and Mississauga FN have been actively engaged in dialogue to determine how best to leverage our economic development prospects to collectively benefit each community. This work is carried out with EDOs from each community who meet via monthly conference calls to share resources and look consider the economic value of projects we can collectively invest in. Direction is taken from Chief and Council reps from each community who in turn receive guidance and support from the EDOs.

[For more info on these initiatives, please send us a message:](#)

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