



September 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 various phases of your business start-up and expansion. Supports includes supporting business plan creation, identifying funding opportunities (start-up & growth options), expanding your network, or learning about new opportunities 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 to 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. Send us an email or give us a call.

CHIBLOW LAKE LODGE:

We are looking for community inputs on ways to improve our offerings at the campground. If you would like to share your inputs, please send us an email. Also, let us know if you'd like to be included in ongoing conversations about the business.

CREEKSIDE CANNABIS:

The Mississaugi Retail Cannabis Corporation shared its 2021-22 audit with the community in March 2023. Copies of the audit are available to community members. Please contact the CED Department or Creekside Cannabis manager for a copy. The store continues to operate with efficiency. A happy and experienced staff is prepared to assist you.

MARKETING:

SPOTS AVAILABLE. Advertise your businesses at our community's entrance sign installation. Contact the CED office to learn 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 brand and presence in larger markets.

COMMUNITY TRAIL SYSTEM:

We are partners with Blind River to address maintenance to parts of the trail as per our signed MOU agreement. In February 2023, we received acknowledgement from Trans-Canada Trail that the Boom Camp Trail network will be recognized and integrated with the existing Youngfox Road-Eldorado Road trail as part of the Trans-Canada Trail network. This accomplishment means that MFN and Blind River will be able to access funding that will update existing signage and address long-standing maintenance concerns. We will also be able to apply for project funding that adds new features and experiences for locals and visitors. Message us if you would like to be a part of the planning!

COMMUNITY BAND MEMBER STARTUPS:

Visit the EcDev page on mississaugi.com learn about business start-up supports. We can help you today!



BAND AQUACULTURE BUSINESS:

Stay tuned! We are in the final stages of funding arrangements for the project. Once approved, we will begin sharing an updated timeline of project tasks including recruitment, training and business opportunities.

SKY CANOE

In early April, Sky Canoe facilitated a workshop with community members to deliver training for drone pilot licence certification. This is 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.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

In 2022, we endeavoured to revitalize the space at the gun range on Canoe Lake Road. Our 2022-2023 CORDA application was unsuccessful. Regardless, here's our current plan:

- With successful funding, we will remodel the site to accommodate learning for traditional skills such as skinning and tanning hides. We will use the space for elder-youth learning programs too.
- The use of the gun range is still on the table, however, to get back to a state of operation, significant work is needed to earn the licence and certification to support the use of rifles and shotguns at the site. All health and safety precautions must be reviewed. Come see us to learn more.
- Message us if you have ideas or would like to contribute to the revitalization of this space!

COMMUNITY GITIGAN:

- Harvesting has been taking place for the gitigan team. Stay up to date with updates shared via the community's media channels. Also, stay in touch with the staff to learn how to get involved.
- We successfully received funding through the Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program to develop a food forest in Mississauga First Nation. This project builds off the successful re-launch of the gitigan project in 2021 and the year-round growing dome install in 2022 to address food security concerns for the community. We value our partners and funders that help us meet these goals.
- We are receiving positive recognition for our work from across the region and province!
- We note emerging interest from 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're interested, please consider joining our volunteer Agriculture committee to begin having in-depth conversations about how we can address local business. This helps us inform the community's land-use plan (LUP) and where to focus future development to accommodate these new initiatives throughout MFN's land base.

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

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