



Annual Report

2024

The National
Indigenous Economic
Development Board



NIEDB Secretariat
10 Wellington Street, Gatineau, QC
<https://www.niedb-cndea.ca/>

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

On behalf of the National Indigenous Economic Development Board (NIEDB), I am pleased to present our 2024 Annual Report.

In 2024, the NIEDB continued to advance its mandate to advise the federal government on policies related to Indigenous economic development. The Board engaged with industry and community leaders from across the country and provided recommendations to ministers and other federal government officials on various issues, programs and policies.



A significant highlight of the Board's work this year was our ongoing advocacy for meaningful change in the Indigenous procurement space. The Board placed a strong emphasis on addressing systemic barriers within federal procurement processes and promoting policies that prioritize Indigenous-owned businesses.

This year, we celebrated the 2nd anniversary of the National Indigenous Economic Strategy (NIES) with the announcement of the new Indigenous Economic Prosperity Institute. The Institute will play a key role in monitoring and measuring the implementation of the Calls to Economic Prosperity, ensuring accountability and sustained progress. This significant investment was made possible by the First Nations University of Canada, the Mastercard Foundation, and the McConnell Foundation. The Centre reflects a strengthened commitment to fostering meaningful economic opportunities and long-term prosperity for Indigenous communities.

During the Board's quarterly meetings, the NIEDB was honoured to be welcomed into the communities of Millbrook First Nation in Nova Scotia, and Yellowknife Dene First Nation and Behchokò First Nation in the Northwest Territories. At these Board meetings, along with a third in-person meeting in Ottawa in December, Board members met with community members and leadership to learn about their successes, discuss barriers hindering Indigenous economic development and explore pathways for progress. Such outreach is vital to ensure that the NIEDB presents recommendations to the federal government that come directly from Indigenous Peoples across Canada.

This year was also filled with difficult goodbyes and warm welcomes. In 2024, Hilda Broomfield Letemplier, Dr. Ruth Williams, Dana Soonias and Bob Dickson retired from their positions as Board members. Their work with the NIEDB to advance Indigenous economic development has been significant and they will be greatly missed. At the end of 2024, the NIEDB welcomed Crystal Martin as a new Board member, and we look forward to the fresh perspective and passion for economic reconciliation that she will bring to the NIEDB's work.

As the Board's Chairperson, I am honoured to share the Board's work to advance Indigenous economic reconciliation, and I look forward to continuing this collaborative journey towards Indigenous socio-economic parity in 2025.

Dawn Madahbee Leach
Chairperson, National Indigenous Economic Development Board



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

The NIEDB's mandate is to advise the Minister of Indigenous Services and other federal Ministers on policies, programs and program coordination as they relate to Indigenous economic development. In 2024, the NIEDB fulfilled this mandate by meeting with over 20 governmental departments.

The Board travelled from the East coast to the North to engage with federal, provincial and territorial governments and share recommendations on Indigenous economic policy. The Board also met with numerous Indigenous communities and organizations to learn about their challenges and their success stories, gathering policy recommendations and guidance to present to the federal government. Throughout the year, Board members attended numerous events across the country to engage in discussions on Indigenous economic development.

The NIEDB released five reports in 2024 and submitted several recommendation letters to the federal government to address barriers to Indigenous economic advancement.

Highlights from the year include:

1. **An updated and modernized NIEDB website.** Produced by Saltmedia, an Indigenous-owned website design company based in Grande Prairie, Alberta, the highly anticipated new NIEDB website features a fresh rebranding and intuitive layout, designed to showcase the NIEDB's work in a more accessible and user-friendly way. Responding to Priority Area #2 of the NIEDB's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan the new website includes a page featuring Indigenous economic success stories. This is an ongoing project that will also feature case studies or videos produced over the years by ISC's Strategic Partnership Initiative (SPI).

To explore the new website and read the success stories, please visit <https://www.niedb-cndea.ca/>

2. **The 2024 Indigenous Economic Progress Report.** This fourth edition of the NIEDB's highly anticipated *Indigenous Economic Progress Report* (IEPR) identifies encouraging progress in Indigenous economic development since the release of the previous edition in 2019. An Expert Advisory Panel of leading academics in the field of Indigenous economic development provided valuable expertise and advice in crafting this report. The IEPR provides a data-driven analysis of key indicators such as employment, income, education, and business development. The report tracks progress, identifies gaps, and aims to inform policy decisions to advance Indigenous economic prosperity. A three-part webinar series inspired by the IEPR's findings and recommendations, co-hosted by Mary Beth Doucette, Purdy Crawford Chair, Cape Breton University and Dr. Deborah Saucier, President and Vice-Chancellor, Vancouver Island University, will be produced in early 2025.

To read the full report, please visit <https://www.niedb-cndea.ca/resources/indigenous-economic-progress-report/>



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

- 3. Celebrating the 2nd anniversary of the National Indigenous Economic Strategy for Canada with the announcement of a new National Indigenous Economic Prosperity Institute.** The 2nd anniversary of the Strategy was held at the Bank of Canada in June, with remarks from Tiff Macklem, Governor of the Bank of Canada, and Soraya Martinez Ferrada, Minister of Tourism. At the event, First Nations University of Canada, together with partners Mastercard Foundation and the McConnell Foundation, announced significant investment towards the creation of a National Indigenous Economic Prosperity Institute dedicated to collecting and governing Indigenous data on population, businesses, lands and resources.
- 4. Board meetings in Millbrook First Nation, NS, Yellowknife, NWT and Ottawa, Ont.** These productive meetings provided the opportunity to engage with numerous Indigenous organizations, industry and government representatives. Meetings with and in communities helps to shape and advance the Board's policy recommendations to the Federal Government.
- 5. Indigenous Women in Industry event, Aotearoa, New Zealand.** Board Chairperson, Dawn Madahbee Leach attended this event in New Zealand, taking the opportunity to share the NIEDB's mandate internationally and to open channels for Indigenous Women to actively engage in international export and trade. Canada will be hosting this event in June 2026.



RECOMMENDATIONS & ENGAGEMENTS

As part of its mandate, the NIEDB provides advice to multiple federal departments and agencies to help develop policies and programs that respond to the unique needs and circumstances of Indigenous people in Canada.

The Board provided the following recommendations to federal government officials this year:

- 1. Recommendation Letter on recognizing Indigenous languages as an Official Language in meeting bilingual requirements in the Federal Public Service** addressed to the Ministers of Indigenous Services Canada, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada in March 2024. The letter was then forwarded to the President of the Treasury Board of Canada.

One of the NIEDB's recommendations in this letter was to promote the availability of language support programs that specifically target Indigenous employees seeking to enhance their proficiency in their respective Indigenous languages. In Budget 2024, the federal government announced \$225 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, with \$45 million per year ongoing for Indigenous languages and cultures programs, in support of the Indigenous Languages Act.

- 2. Recommendation Letter on the verification of Indigenous identity** addressed to the President and the Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of Canada in March 2024.

In the letter, the Board emphasized that any policy reform on this matter must be done with and by Indigenous Peoples. One of the Board's recommendations was to create a more rigorous and culturally safe verification process which involves building relationships with communities and Elders, recognizing traditional knowledge and establishing Indigenous expert panels.

The President of the Public Service Commission of Canada responded to the NIEDB, committing to work in close collaboration with Indigenous groups such as the Knowledge Circle for Indigenous Inclusion. Further, as per the Board's recommendation, the President committed to reviewing commissioned reports and consulting with academic institutions and Indigenous advisory panels that are currently revising their Indigenous identity verification policies.

- 3. Recommendation Letter on the safety of Indigenous Atlantic commercial fishers** addressed to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada in September 2024. The letter was then forwarded to the offices of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Department of Public Safety.
- 4. Recommendation Letter on systemic racism and the issue of capital gains taxation preventing the sale of fishing licenses in the Atlantic commercial fishing industry** addressed to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in September 2024.



RECOMMENDATIONS & ENGAGEMENTS

In this letter, the NIEDB emphasized the importance of eliminating institutional and systemic racism, implementing First Nations-led approaches to enforcement and protection, and integrating Indigenous laws, principles and knowledge with other scientific information and data into fisheries decision-making processes.

The NIEDB also recommended exempting Indigenous fishers from capital gains tax on the sale of fishing licenses to facilitate Indigenous integration into the commercial fishing industry and help mitigate the barriers imposed by the current tax regime. This recommendation was shared with the Board by Indigenous participants at the May 2024 Board meeting in Millbrook First Nation, Nova Scotia.

In a response letter, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard highlighted that there is ongoing work to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Action Plan measures. Such measures include commitments to respecting and incorporating Indigenous knowledge in management, address systemic racism in the enforcement of fisheries laws and regulations, and pursuing amendments and reforms to support self-determination and implementation of rights.

The NIEDB has yet to receive a response from the Minister of Finance regarding the Board's recommendations around capital gains tax. The NIEDB continues to bring this recommendation forward during meetings and correspondences with government officials.

- 5. Letter on recommendations voiced by the Atlantic First Nation Water Authority** addressed to the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada and the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada in September 2024.

The NIEDB received correspondence from the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, committing to reach out to the Atlantic First Nation Water Authority regarding the new Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund.

- 6. Recommendation Letter on limitations in Census data** addressed to the Minister of Innovation Science and Industry and the Chief Statistician of Canada in November 2024.

The Chief Statistician of Canada responded to the NIEDB's letter and addressed each of the Board's recommendations. For instance, the Board recommended deeper engagement with Indigenous communities, especially in areas that are harder to reach, to ensure data collection methods are culturally appropriate. The Chief Statistician of Canada shared that for the 2026 Census, about 20 consultations have been held with Indigenous communities and organizations, including the NIEDB.

In this letter, the Board also emphasized the importance of supporting Indigenous-led data initiatives and organizations through funding, capacity-building and shared governance mechanisms. In response, the Chief Statistician stated that 30 free courses have been delivered



RECOMMENDATIONS & ENGAGEMENTS

to 655 Indigenous communities in the first half of 2024/2025, as part of the Indigenous Statistics Capacity Development Initiative. The Chief Statistician also recognized the importance of disaggregated data and committed to exploring ways to improve data collection for smaller communities.

- 7. Recommendation Letter on Indigenous Spectrum Sovereignty and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's Indigenous Priority Window Spectrum Policy Framework** addressed to the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry in December 2024.

The Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry replied to the NIEDB's letter, recognizing that significant connectivity gaps remain in Indigenous communities. The Minister shared ongoing measures intended to increase access to spectrum for Indigenous Peoples across Canada outside of the Indigenous Priority Window Spectrum Policy Framework: The Non-Competitive Local Licensing and the New Access Licensing Framework. The Minister also instructed departmental officials to continue working with the NIEDB to discuss Indigenous access to spectrum and connectivity. This includes reviewing the Board's recommendations and exploring how these perspectives can be incorporated into future policy initiatives.

The Board also provided advice by engaging in numerous federal economic issues in 2024:

- 1. Engagement on Barriers and Solutions to Achieving Net-Zero Emissions Goal in Canada's Electricity Sector** by the Natural Resources Canada's Canada Electricity Advisory Council in January 2024.
- 2. Engagement on Cracking Down on Predatory Lending, Lowering the Criminal Rate of Interest, and Increasing Access to Low-Credit Financing** with the Department of Finance in January 2024.
- 3. Engagement on Strengthening Competition in the Financial Sector** with the Department of Finance in February 2024.
- 4. Engagement on Additions to Reserve Policy Reform and Modernization** with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada in February 2024.
- 5. Engagement on Indigenous Peoples on Border Mobility** with Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada in February 2024.
- 6. Engagement on negotiations of CAN-EU Equivalency Agreement for Organic Products** by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in November 2024.
- 7. Engagement on the Canada-UK Free Trade Agreement and the inclusion of a Chapter on Indigenous Peoples and Trade** with Global Affairs Canada. These negotiations are now on hold.
- 8. Ongoing engagement on Indigenous Procurement** with Indigenous Services Canada, Public Service and Procurement Canada, and Treasury Board.



BOARD MEETINGS

Board members meet four times a year, with three in-person meetings and one virtual session. When possible, the Board meets in community to learn of their successes and to gather insight on current challenges and barriers faced by Indigenous organizations, business owners, entrepreneurs and the community. These meetings play a key role in helping the Board develop concrete economic policy recommendations to the Government of Canada. In our meetings, we also include discussions and updates with the various Regional Development Agencies from the regions we visit.

Virtual Board Meeting - February 2024

The NIEDB started the year with a virtual Board meeting to discuss Board business and committee updates and engage with stakeholders involved in Indigenous economic development. During the meeting, the Board heard presentations from the First Nations Finance Authority and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission. The Board discussed border mobility with representatives from Canada Border Services Agency and Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada, and heard from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada about the new Additions-to-Reserves policy. In addition, the Board reviewed several reports including the Fiscal Realities' report, *Growing Canada's Economy*, and the report *Transformative Framework to Achieve and Sustain Employment Equality* by the Employment Equity Review Task Force.

Millbrook First Nation, Nova Scotia - May 2024

In Spring, the NIEDB travelled to Nova Scotia to host a two-day Board meeting at the Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative in Millbrook First Nation, a community recognized for its leadership in Indigenous economic development. In addition to conducting Board business and providing committee updates, the Board met with several Indigenous organizations and businesses to discuss the barriers hindering Indigenous economic development in their communities and the ways in which they've managed to overcome these barriers. These participants included representatives from Clearwater Seafoods, the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat, Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey, Millbrook First Nation, Bayside Development Corporation, the Atlantic First Nations Water Authority, Ulnooweg and the Nova Scotia Indigenous Tourism Enterprise Network.



The NIEDB at the Millbrook Cultural & Heritage Centre. From left to right: Dr. Marie Delorme, Hilda Broomfield Letemplier, Chief Terrance Paul, Sandra Sutter, Dawn Madahbee Leach, Michael Bonshor, Victoria LaBillois and Bob Dickson.



BOARD MEETINGS

The Board also met with federal government representatives to offer recommendations and advice on advancing Indigenous economic prosperity, including the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, the Atlantic Regional Office of Indigenous Services Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Indigenous Services Canada's Atlantic Economic Development Advisory Committee and the Transformative Indigenous Procurement Strategy.

During this meeting, the Board hosted its first panel discussion, featuring participants from the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, Millbrook First Nation, Ulnooweg and Glooscap First Nation to discuss the state of the Atlantic Indigenous commercial fishery. This panel led to several recommendations for the Board to present to the federal government, establishing a new precedent for future Board meeting agendas.

Yellowknife, NWT – September 2024

The NIEDB held its third Board meeting of the year in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. On the first day, the Board visited the Parsons Office of Indigenous Procurement for the Giant Mine Remediation project and then travelled to the First Nation community of Behchokò to meet with Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty and the Tłı̨chǫ Government Chief Executive Council. The Board heard a presentation by the Chief Executive Council and toured the community's new Cultural Centre.

Throughout the three days of meetings in Yellowknife, the Board heard several presentations and engaged in productive discussions with representatives from the federal and provincial governments and Indigenous organizations. The Board met with participants from CanNor, Indigenous Services Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Deten'cho Management LP, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, NWT Metis Dene Development Fund Ltd. and Denendeh Investments Incorporated.

Building on the success of the fisheries panel at the May Board meeting, the NIEDB hosted a panel on connectivity in the North with representatives from Northwestel, SSi Canada and the Indigenous



The NIEDB visiting Behchokò. From left to right: Chief Adeline Football (Tłı̨chǫ Nation), Bob Dickson, Danielle Levine, Dr. Marie Delorme, Dawn Madahbee Leach, Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty (Tłı̨chǫ Nation), Chief Doreen Arrowmaker (Tłı̨chǫ Nation), Chief Allonz Nitsiza (Tłı̨chǫ Nation), Sandra Sutter, Michael Bonshor, Chief Clifford Daniels (Tłı̨chǫ Nation), Maxime Vollant



From left to right: Bob Dickson, Maxime Vollant, Danielle Levine, Michael Bonshor, Chief Fred Sangris (Yellowknives Dene First Nation), Mark Lewis (Det'on Cho Management LP), Jake Heron (NWT Métis Nation), Silas Shafqat (Director Economic Development, Yellowknives First Nation), Dr. Marie Delorme, Sandra Sutter



BOARD MEETINGS

Connectivity Institute. Additionally, the Board participated in discussions with Innovation, Science and Economic Development on Spectrum and the Indigenous Priority Window.

Ottawa, ON - December 2024

The NIEDB hosted its final Board meeting of the year at the Lord Elgin Hotel in Ottawa Ontario. These annual meetings in the Nation's capital provide the NIEDB with an important opportunity to engage directly with federal government officials and share recommendations. This year, the Board met with the President of the Public Service Commission, the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Lands and Economic Development Sector of Indigenous Services Canada, the Minister of Northern Affairs, the Deputy Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Parliamentary Secretary of Indigenous Services Canada.



From left to right: Crystal Martin, Michael Bonshor, Dr. Marie Delorme, Chief Terrance Paul, Andy Moorhouse, Dawn Madahbee Leach, The Honourable Dan Vandal, Victoria LaBillois, Danielle Levin, Jimi Onalik, President of CanNor, and Bob Dickson.

The Board also engaged in discussions with federal government representatives from Global Affairs Canada, the Strategic Partnerships Initiative, VIA HFR and the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. As well, the Board met with representatives from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and Chief Evan Taypotat of Kahkewistahaw First Nation to discuss specific claims. The Honourable Senator Paul Prosper attended as an observer on the first day of meetings.

In addition, the Board met with representatives from the First Nations Major Projects Coalition, the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association, the Assembly of First Nations and the Métis National Council and a representative from the Business Council of Canada.

Board members were honoured to have an informal dinner with Senator Judy White, and Senator Brian Francis.



SPECIAL EVENTS

National Indigenous Economic Strategy 2nd Anniversary Event – Bank of Canada

On June 6th, 2024, the NIEDB hosted an event at the Bank of Canada to mark the 2nd Anniversary of the *National Indigenous Economic Strategy* and announce the establishment of the National Indigenous Economic Prosperity Institute at First Nations University of Canada. The event featured NIEDB member, Dr. Marie Delorme, as Master of Ceremonies, with remarks from Governor of the Bank of Canada, Tiff Macklem, and the Honourable Soray Martinez Ferrada, Minister of Tourism. The event also featured a panel discussion moderated by NIEDB Chairperson, Dawn Madahbee Leach, with representatives from the three funding partners behind this important initiative – FNUniv, Mastercard Foundation and the McConnell Foundation.



Dawn Madahbee Leach moderating a discussion between Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann (FNUniv), Jennifer Brennan (Mastercard Foundation) and Lili-Anna Pereša (McConnell Foundation). Photo taken by Fred Cattroll of Cattroll Photo Associates.

This initiative fulfills NIES Call to Economic Prosperity #79:

- *Establish and empower an Indigenous Institute to collect and govern Indigenous data about population, business, lands, and resources. This Institute will monitor and measure implementation of these Calls to Economic Prosperity.*



From left to right: Marie Delorme (NIEDB), Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann (FNUniv), Tiff Macklem (Governor Bank of Canada), Aaliyah O'Watch (FNUniv student), Jennifer Brennan (Mastercard Foundation), Dawn Madahbee Leach (NIEDB) and Lili-Anna Pereša (McConnell Foundation) Photo taken by Fred Cattroll of Cattroll Photo Associates.



Dr. Marie Delorme presenting the National Indigenous Economic Strategy. Photo taken by Fred Cattroll of Cattroll Photo Associates.



APPEARANCES & PRESENTATIONS

Dawn Madahbee Leach – True Reconcili-ACTION Conference & GALA

On January 11th, 2024, NIEDB Chairperson Dawn Madahbee Leach presented at the True Reconcili-ACTION conference on the past, present and future of Indigenous economic reconciliation. Ms. Madahbee Leach discussed the devastating effects of colonialism on Indigenous socio-economic outcomes, the recent advancements in Indigenous economic prosperity, including the passing of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and the announcement of an Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program, as well as the next steps that are required to achieve true reconciliation. Ms. Madahbee Leach emphasized that true reconciliation cannot be achieved without vibrant Indigenous economies, characterized by economic self-sufficiency and socio-economic equality with the rest of Canada.

Dawn Madahbee Leach – Indigenous Women in Industry

In February, 2024, NIEDB Chairperson Dawn Madahbee Leach had the honour of travelling to Aotearoa, New Zealand, as a patron of the Indigenous Women in Industry event. During the event, Ms. Madahbee Leach spoke about Indigenous economic development in Canada, highlighting the barriers Indigenous businesses face, such as limited access to capital, remote communities and insufficient infrastructure and connectivity. She also discussed the potential opportunities to be derived through the Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement amongst Australia, Canada, Aotearora, and Taiwan.

Dr. Marie Delorme – Economic Reconciliation in the Financial Sector Roundtable

On February 8th, 2024, Dr. Marie Delorme was invited by the Honorable Patty Hajdu to participate in the Economic Reconciliation in the Financial Sector Roundtable. Dr. Delorme emphasized the importance of collaborative action and highlighted the *National Indigenous Economic Strategy* as a guiding framework for governments, industry and the financial sector.

Dana Soonias – Mastercard Foundation Announcement Media Event

On April 19th, 2024, Dana Soonias attended the Mastercard Foundation Announcement Media Event and provided a presentation on the work and mandate of the NIEDB and the *National Indigenous Economic Strategy* (NIES). Mr. Soonias highlighted that the Mastercard Foundation's support for the First Nations University of Canada's creation of the National Indigenous Economic Prosperity Institute aligns with the NIES Call to Economic Prosperity #79.

During his remarks, Mr. Soonias emphasized the importance of having a mechanism to monitor the NIES Calls to Economic Prosperity to ensure accountability for their implementation. He also highlighted that the Indigenous Economic Prosperity Institute will play an important role in ensuring the NIES continues to serve as a comprehensive roadmap for promoting Indigenous inclusion in the Canadian economy.



APPEARANCES & PRESENTATIONS

Hilda Broomfield Letemplier – Centre for the North, The Conference Board of Canada

On June 4th-5th, 2024, Hilda Broomfield Letemplier attended the Centre for the North meeting hosted by the Conference Board of Canada, an independent, applied research organization which the NIEDB joined in 2024. During the event, Ms. Broomfield Letemplier delivered a presentation on the barriers facing Indigenous Peoples in the North. She shared eight recommendations on Indigenous infrastructure in the North from the NIEDB's *Northern Infrastructure Report*, as well as five recommendations on addressing food insecurity in the North. She also discussed opportunities for partnerships and business development, emphasizing the importance of Indigenous trusts and their role in investing in community priorities.

Michael Bonshor - Corporate-Indigenous Relations Council (CIRC), The Conference Board of Canada

On October 30, 2024, Michael Bonshor attended the Fall Member's Meeting of the CIRC, hosted by the Conference Board of Canada. At the meeting, he presented the *2024 Indigenous Economic Progress Report*, including key findings about progress made and ongoing gaps. Michael shared the recommendations from the report which have implications across government and industry, and received feedback from participants on improving the process moving forward.



2019 Indigenous Economic Progress Report Revisited

The [2019 Indigenous Economic Progress Report Revisited](#) details the Government of Canada's actions related to the recommendations provided in the *2019 Indigenous Economic Progress Report* and links the recommendations to the *NIES Calls to Economic Prosperity*. For each recommendation, the report identifies if progress has been made by the federal government or if more needs to be done. This report revealed that five recommendations have had good progress made, 12 recommendations have had some progress made, and seven recommendations require more work to be done and have been reiterated in the *2024 Indigenous Economic Progress Report*.

Economic Reconciliation: Growing Canada's Economy

[Economic Reconciliation: Growing Canada's Economy](#) is a report prepared for the NIEDB by Fiscal Realities Economists. Using 2021 Census data from Statistics Canada, the NIEDB estimates that closing economic gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous workforces could raise Canadian GDP by \$26.7 billion. This report outlines the methodology for this estimate.

2023 NIEDB Annual Report

The NIEDB's [2023 Annual Report](#) provides an overview of the Board's work throughout the year, outlining special events, appearances and presentations, Board meetings and publications. Highlights from 2023 include: presenting to the Te Puni Kōkiri Delegation in New Zealand on Economic Reconciliation in Canada; appearing at the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Industry and Technology, and the Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples and the Deputy Ministers Committee on Indigenous Reconciliation; meeting with the ministers of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Small Business and Indigenous Services Canada; and, hosting in-person meetings in Prince Rupert, Winnipeg and Ottawa.

2024-2027 NIEDB Strategic Plan

The [2024-2027 NIEDB Strategic Plan](#) aligns the Board's goals and areas of focus over the next three years under three priority areas: The National Indigenous Economic Strategy, Indigenous Economic Inclusion and Indigenous Economic Data.

2024 Indigenous Economic Progress Report

The fourth iteration of the [Indigenous Economic Progress Report](#) (IEPR) updates and assesses key economic indicators for Indigenous population in Canada, using data from the 2021 Census and beyond. It aims to track progress, identify gaps and inform policy decisions to foster Indigenous economic prosperity. The IEPR examines core and underlying indicators to economic development: employment, income, community well-being, education, entrepreneurship, governance, lands and resources and infrastructure. Despite notable progress, the IEPR reveals that continued action is required to reach economic parity. To advance this goal, the report includes 70 recommendations and 22 strategic considerations, and reiterates recommendations from the 2019 Indigenous Economic Progress Report that remain unresolved.



ABOUT THE BOARD

Established in 1990, the National Indigenous Economic Development Board (NIEDB) is the only non-partisan, national organization mandated to advise the Government of Canada on Indigenous 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 Indigenous Peoples. The Board also provides a vital link between policy makers, federal departments, and Indigenous and non-Indigenous business and community leaders.

Vision

The NIEDB envisions a vibrant Indigenous economy, where Indigenous Peoples are economically self-sufficient and have achieved economic parity with Canadian society.

Mission

The NIEDB is committed to providing advice and guidance to the federal government on economic opportunities that empower Indigenous Peoples to have a voice in government policy.

Mandate

The NIEDB's mandate is to advise the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada and other federal ministers on policies, programs, and program coordination as they relate to Indigenous economic development.

Committees

In 2024, the NIEDB redesigned its committee structure to align with the three priority areas of the NIEDB's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan:

- The National Indigenous Economic Strategy
- Indigenous Economic Inclusion, and
- Indigenous Economic Data

Executive Committee

Consisting of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Member-at-Large, this committee provides ongoing advice and guidance to the NIEDB in carrying out its roles, responsibilities and mandate.

National Indigenous Economic Strategy Committee

This Committee will continue to advance and encourage implementation of the National Indigenous Economic Strategy for Canada.

Indigenous Economic Inclusion Committee

The new Indigenous Economic Inclusion Committee aims to identify opportunities for greater market integration for Indigenous businesses and showcase Indigenous contributions to the national economy by developing success stories and case studies. True Economic reconciliation is at the heart of the committee's work. Committee members develop strategic recommendations, participate in discussions and provide advice to guide government policies and institutions to facilitate access to financing, business



ABOUT THE BOARD

expertise and public procurement markets, enabling further growth across communities. This committee is aligned with Priority Area #2 from the NIEDB's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan.

Indigenous Economic Data Committee

The new Indigenous Economic Data Committee, aligned under Priority Area #3 of the NIEDB's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, is dedicated to advancing Indigenous economic development through data-driven strategies. Its mandate is to ensure that Indigenous data is collected, governed, and used ethically to foster economic prosperity, sovereignty and self-determination. The mandate of the former Economic Progress Report Committee', which was responsible for creating the Indigenous Economic Progress Reports, has now been incorporated into this new committee.

Board Members



Dawn Madahbee Leach
Chairperson
Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation (Ontario)
General Manager,
Waubetek Business Development Corporation



Victoria LaBillois
Vice-Chairperson
Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation (Québec)
Principal, The Eloquent Hostess



Chief Terrance Paul
Member-at-Large
Membertou First Nation, (Nova Scotia)
Chief Executive Officer,
Membertou Development Corporation



Dr. Marie Delorme
Member
Métis, (Alberta)
Chief Executive Officer,
Imagination Group Inc.



Michael Bonshor
Member
Dzawad'enuuxw First Nation of Kingcome Inlet (British Columbia)
President & CEO,
Visions First Nations Financial Services / Kí'mola Indigenous Capital



Bob Dickson
Member
Lac Seul First Nation (Ontario)
Chief Executive Officer,
companies owned by the Attawapiskat First Nation



ABOUT THE BOARD



**Maxime Vollant
Member**
Innu First Nation of
Pessamit (Québec)
Head of Indigenous
relations, Rio Tinto-IOC



**Danielle Levine
Member**
Métis, (British Columbia)
Entrepreneur and owner
of Danielle-Levine
Consulting



**Sandra Sutter
Member**
Métis (Alberta)
Indie recording artist and
filmmaker, ICD.



**Andy Moorhouse
Member**
Inuit (Quebec)
Vice-President of
Economic Development,
Makivik Corporation



**Dana Soonias
Member**
Red Pheasant First Nation
(Saskatchewan)
Director of Economic
Development and
Employment Training
Services, Saskatoon Tribal
Council



**Hilda Broomfield
Letemplier
Member**
Happy Valley Goose Bay
(Newfoundland)
President / Chief Financial
Officer, Pressure Pipe
Steel Fabrication Ltd.



**Dr. Ruth Williams
Member**
High Bar First Nation
(British Columbia)
Business Advisor / Project
Manager, Pathways to
Technology with All
Nations Trust Company



**Crystal Martin
Member**
Inuit (Nunavut)
Chief Executive Officer,
Okpik Consulting and co-
founder Indigenous
Geographic

