

FIRST NATIONS CAPACITY FUND 2020 - 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It's hard to believe the First Nations Capacity Fund is almost seven years old. We created the organization in 2016 to give companies a practical way to take steps toward meaningful economic and social reconciliation with Indigenous communities across Western Canada. We wanted a simple approach with guaranteed impact, and I am proud we are achieving what we set out to do.

Our model hasn't changed: fund members pool our investments to have a greater impact, in a collective and practical approach to Indigenous engagement that creates training and employment opportunities for Indigenous people in any vocation of their choosing. We seek to remove barriers to employment that can seem like no-big-deal to some, but that are significant to others.

There were three members of the FNCF in 2016: BCT Projects, EECOL Electric, and Pacific Electrical Installations. Today, 11 organizations are members, at varying levels of financial and in-kind support. I want to personally thank these companies for their generous support of the Fund and their commitment to reconciliation.

Over the last several years, I and other FNCF members have been encouraged to see so many

more organizations across Canada begin their reconciliation journeys with Indigenous communities. The horrifying confirmation of bodies, graves, and unmarked graves on the sites of former residential schools across our country—including at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in May 2021—were certainly a call to action to accelerate these efforts, for those already on the path and for those who had not yet started their journeys. We are hopeful the recent Papal apology strengthens and propels us forward further: moving from acknowledgement into action is a critical part of the healing work ahead, for individuals, Indigenous communities, and Canada as a whole.

There's no "right way" to approach reconciliation. The First Nations Capacity Fund offers a way, but the sad reality is, we receive requests for funding far beyond our available resources. This means we have to say no to well-designed and developed programs with the potential to change lives, now and for future generations. We invite you to join us in our reconciliation journey.

Chad Bentley

President



**FIRST NATIONS
CAPACITY
FUND**

A COLLECTIVE, PRACTICAL APPROACH TO INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

**SMALL INVESTMENT.
BIG RETURN.**

We invest in programs that apply directly to the Fund for grants. We also partner with government-funded service organizations that use Fund investment to offer support to clients where government dollars can sometimes not be used.

2020 - 2021 ACTIVITY

Over the last two years, we have provided tens of thousands of dollars in financial support to five organizations. Two highlights include:

The SIIT Electrical Applied Certificate Program September 2020 – February 2021

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies' Electrical Applied Certificate Program delivers the first-year theoretical and hands-on training components of four-year electrical apprentice programs. Funding from the FNCF for the 2020/2021 cohort provided students with Canadian Electrical Code books, steel-toed boots, and apprentice tool kits. Because of COVID-19, some of the training components had to be delivered online. But the students managed to wire a building as part of their course work, even with restrictions and social-distancing requirements in place. And eight of the 10 who originally enrolled completed the program and received their Level 1 certificates.

Pathways to Driving: Learners Licence Program March 2020-March 2021

The Pathways to Driving program helps help candidates overcome barriers and build confidence in their driving knowledge to successfully complete ICBC's Class 7 Learners Licence Knowledge Test. Upon receiving their learner's licence, candidates are enrolled in driving lessons to help them prepare for a road test to obtain their "N," which is an asset for employment. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, course work shifted to online platforms, including a Google classroom, where students were able to study at their own pace. All students are provided with a binder that includes practice tests, road sign flashcards, and the ICBC handbook. The FNCF has sponsored six driving packages for candidates from the Stk'emlupsemc Te Secwepemc Nation.

OUR BOARD & MEMBERSHIP

President: Chad Bentley, Pacific Electrical Installations
Vice President & Secretary: Leonard Jackson, BCT Projects
Treasurer: Tim Bell, The Arrow Group of Companies



HOW CAN YOU JOIN THE FUND?

Becoming a member of the FNCF is a modest investment with a significant return. To join us in this innovative approach to creating genuine community partnerships and engagement, contact Leonard Jackson at 250.571.4339.

