



Aboriginal Economy
Youth Entrepreneurship

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS FORUM 2012
FOLLOW UP REPORT

INTRODUCTION

One of the priority projects for the 2010 Northern Development Minister's Forum (NDMF) was "Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship". The report explored success factors and challenges that affect young Aboriginal entrepreneurs across Canada. The project was carried out in three parts:

- A literature review of relevant materials;
- Two surveys were designed and administered to Aboriginal youth entrepreneurs (under the age of 35) and program deliverers; and
- An inventory of programs in each jurisdiction supporting northern Aboriginal youth entrepreneurs was assembled.

Supported from findings from the literature review as well as the surveys conducted, the report concluded that Aboriginal entrepreneurs need assistance in:

- Education, training and job experience
- Business financing
- Business information
- Mentoring; and
- Networking within communities and community support for entrepreneurship.

Recommendations from the 2010 Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship report were:

1. Ministers accept the priority project working group report, and request that the Senior Officials Working Group circulate the report to appropriate officials in other departments and post it to the public portion of the Focus North website.
2. A comprehensive review and inventory of all Federal, provincial and territorial business financing programs available to Aboriginal youth entrepreneurs be undertaken in order to reduce unnecessary duplication.
3. As jurisdictions develop future programming, attention be paid to the full range of supports required by Aboriginal youth (i.e. not just education/training and business financing programming, but also mentorship/aftercare and business information).
4. Targeted programs for Aboriginal youth be established by governments. Programs that provide youth with opportunities in entrepreneurship do exist across Canada, but they do not target Aboriginal youth in a specific way. Specific initiatives targeted to Aboriginal youth could include:
 - Targeted curriculum related to Aboriginal youth entrepreneurship for use by Boards of Education,
 - Funding for not-for-profit organizations to develop community programs for youth entrepreneurship for use in Aboriginal communities, and
 - Programs which would provide financial and mentoring support to Aboriginal students to develop their own businesses.

5. Marketing and promotion of the broad array of existing programs to assist Aboriginal entrepreneurs be made a priority. The use of internet communication tools such as Twitter, Facebook and MySpace for the dissemination of information to Aboriginal youth entrepreneurs should be considered.
6. The development of a comprehensive (Federal/provincial/territorial/private sector/Aboriginal) business support network that addresses a number of gaps, including:
 - The provision of information to Aboriginal entrepreneurs in a one stop shop manner,
 - A continuum of business supports in a manner that provides seamless support throughout transitional periods of a business, and
 - Improved collaboration on existing and future business supports.
7. Provincial/Territorial Ministers consider setting up a Working Group to investigate more universal adoption of preferred procurement policies.

This report is a follow-up that addresses the second recommendation of reviewing the list of Federal, provincial and territorial business financing programs to identify potential overlaps. It should be noted that only business financing programs found in the 2010 NDMF report were examined. This report does not consider other support programs that may be available (e.g. Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth (CCAY), Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative) and other programs which were not identified in the 2010 NDMF report.

ANALYTIC FILTER

As noted above, this follow up report analyses and compares business financing programs available to Aboriginal youth entrepreneurs that are offered at the Federal and provincial-territorial levels. In general, these are the programs that provide funding to support entrepreneurs throughout the business life-cycle from start-up support, implementation to aftercare. The support provided under these programs includes:

- Loan guarantees;
- Financial consulting services;
- Technical support; and
- Grants.

In analysing these programs for potential overlap and duplication, this report considers three different filters:

- Is the program available and/or targeted to youth?
- Is the program available and/or targeted to Aboriginal peoples? and
- Is the program available and/or targeted to entrepreneurs in the North?

The report then examines what programs are available at the Federal level that fall into these filters and compares those with the range of business financing programs available at the provincial/territorial level.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Federal initiatives tend to have broad eligibility criteria and larger pools of available funding than provincial and territorial programs. While there are many Federal programs available for Aboriginal entrepreneurs, programs tend to target aboriginal or youth or entrepreneurs in the North but not all three criteria at the same time. This means that under such programs, young Aboriginal entrepreneurs will be competing not just amongst each other, but also with other applicants as well. In addition, the Federal government often partners with provinces and territories to provide a wide array of programs. Such examples include:

- The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
- The Métis Energy and Resource Program in Saskatchewan
- Community Futures Network of Canada which includes community futures development corporations (CFDCs); and
- Community Business Development Corporations (CBDCs) offices across Canada.

The Federal programs have a wide array of eligibility requirements, types of support offered, available funding, and are designed to meet different priorities as can be seen in the table below.

Program	Description	Aboriginal	Youth	North
Aboriginal Business Development Program	Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$99,999 for individual entrepreneurs and up to \$1 million for community-owned businesses. 	✓	✓	
Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS)	The ASETS is an integrated approach to Aboriginal labour market programming. ASETS links training to labour market demand and ensures that Canada's Aboriginal people can fully participate in economic opportunities. Under this strategy, Aboriginal Agreement Holders design and deliver employment programs and services. ASETS focuses on three priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting demand-driven skills development; • Fostering partnerships with the private sectors and the provinces and territories; and • Placing emphasis on accountability and results. • Agreements are established on a five year planning cycle 	✓		
Aboriginal Skills and Training	The ASTSIF focuses on three main objectives:	✓		

Program	Description	Aboriginal	Youth	North
Strategic Investment Fund (ASTSIF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete, guaranteed job opportunities by establishing partnerships with small and medium-size employers; • Supporting projects to assist Aboriginal people with barriers to employment, including literacy and essential skills challenges; and • Supporting projects to test innovative approaches to Aboriginal labour market programming, as well as projects that are national in scope. <p>Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Projects are funded for a maximum of 18 months ○ Only existing Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement (AHRDA) holders are eligible to apply for regionally delivered ASTSIF funding. Provinces, Territories, Government of Canada departments and other organizations may partner with AHRDAs to develop a proposal 			
Community Economic Opportunities Program (CEOP)	<p>The CEOP provides project-based support to those First Nation and Inuit communities that have the best opportunities for public services in economic development. This fund is available to First Nation Councils, governments of self-governing First Nations and Inuit communities.</p> <p>Funding: Varies depending on the application.</p>	✓		
Aboriginal Business Development Program – Aboriginal Financial Institutions	<p>ABDP provides assistance to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish, expand and diversify the network of Aboriginally-owned and controlled financial institutions by providing developmental capital, that are functionally complementary to the mainstream financial sector; • enhance access to capital for Aboriginal businesses in Canada that have difficulty in 			

Program	Description	Aboriginal	Youth	North
	<p>obtaining conventional commercial financing; and finally,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhance the capacity of Aboriginal financial and business development organizations to provide financial services, business information, and developmental support services. <p>AFI programming consists of two key activities:</p> <p>1) Capitalization (top-ups) to Aboriginal Capital Corporations</p> <p>Top-up contributions for capitalization have been provided primarily to support the demand upon ACCs for developmental lending from Aboriginal businesses.</p> <p>2) Business Support Officer (BSO)</p> <p>The BSO is intended to assist the AFI with providing business advisory services and loan aftercare services to clients in its operating area. The funding will allow the AFI to perform a mentoring/business support role for clients who are most in need of assistance, but have limited resources to pay for this service.</p>			
Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Businesses (PSAB)	The PSAB works to help Aboriginal firms to do more contracting with Federal departments and assists them in gaining overall access to the procurement process	✓		
Métis Energy and Resource Program	<p>This Program supports the increased participation of Saskatchewan Métis businesses in the resource and energy sectors. The Program provides investments under two separate programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Equity Contribution Program • The Community Infrastructure Development Program 	✓		

Program	Description	Aboriginal	Youth	North
	Funding: Ranges from \$250,000 - \$1,000,000			
Canada Youth Business Foundation (CYBF)	CYBF is a national charity which helps young entrepreneurs (aged 18 – 34) through the entire business life-cycle from pre-launch planning, to start-up, to implementation Funding: Provides access to up to \$50,000 in start-up financing			
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency	The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency works to create opportunities for economic growth in Atlantic Canada by helping businesses become more competitive, innovative and productive. Some of the programs are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic Innovation Fund; • Business Development Program; • Community Adjustment Fund; • Export Internship for Trade Graduate Initiative; • Innovative Communities Fund; • Sector Export Strategies; • Seed Capital Initiative; • Young Entrepreneur Development Initiative; and • Women in Business Initiative. 		✓	
Northern Ontario Development Program (NODP)	Funding: Since 2006, more than \$192 million for nearly 1,070 projects supporting community economic development, business growth and competitiveness, and innovation. Only available in Northern Ontario			✓
Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development (SINED)	Funding: \$90 million funding available over 5 years (April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2014). Available to business enterprises and financing organizations or associations which advance northern economic development in Canada's three territories. The Program Suite for SINED includes the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted Investment Program; • Innovation and Knowledge Fund; • Partnership & Advisory Forums; • Pan-Territorial Fund 			
Community	Community Futures are Community			✓

Program	Description	Aboriginal	Youth	North
Futures Network of Canada (CFDCs/ CBDCs)	<p>Futures Development Corporations and Community Business Development Corporations (CFDCs/ CBDCs) that provide their communities with a variety of services including business development loans, technical support, training and information. In addition to the business development component, CFDCs/ CBDCs involve themselves in a wide array of community initiatives, including strategic planning processes, research and feasibility studies, and the implementation of a diverse range of community economic development (CED) projects. There are currently 269 Community Futures offices across Canada.</p> <p>Funding: Varies in each province</p>			

PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL PROGRAMS

Provincial and Territorial business financing programs tend to have a more specific focus and provide less funding than Federal programs. The funding available for individual projects is as high as \$2 million (e.g. Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF) and the Entrepreneur Loan Program, both in Manitoba).

Provincial and territorial programs are also far more likely to focus on local demographics, priorities and economic opportunities. Such examples include the Sport Hunt Marketing Program in the Northwest Territories and the First Nation Youth Livestock Program in Saskatchewan. There are more provincial programs providing funding to Aboriginal youth entrepreneurs but very few that provide funding to Aboriginal youth entrepreneurs in the North. It is also worth noting that across these programs within the same jurisdiction, the age threshold for “youth” widely varies. For example, the Young Rural Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program in Manitoba provides support for young business owners under 40 and the First Nation Youth Livestock Program in Saskatchewan is available for youth aged 12 to 19.

While business financing programs are useful, financial literacy is another key component to complement loans and grants received. Many of the business financing programs also provide funding to increase business knowledge and skills. (i.e. Louis Riel Capital Corporation in Manitoba, Financial Program of ORSEF in Quebec).

The following tables provide examples of business financing programs provided at the provincial/territorial level that may be available to Aboriginal youth entrepreneurs in Northern Canada. As with the Federal programs, there is a wide range of eligibility requirements, type of support offered, available funding, and program priorities.

Programs targeting Aboriginal youth entrepreneurs:

Program	Description	Aboriginal	Youth	North
Ulnooewg Youth Business Loan Atlantic Provinces	This program is offered in the Atlantic Provinces through the Ulnooewg Development Group. (Funding is provided directly by Ulnooewg rather than by the provinces). Ulnooewg provides loans and business services to Aboriginal entrepreneurs in New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador and Nova Scotia Funding: Loans up to \$15,000 for Aboriginal business owners in Atlantic Canada, aged 35 or younger.	✓	✓	
Business Start Program: Loan Guarantee program with an educational component	This program is a loan guarantee program with an educational component. Funding: The loan guarantee extends to a		✓	

Program	Description	Aboriginal	Youth	North
Manitoba	maximum of \$20,000 with an interest rate of prime plus 1% and a one-year deferral of principal repayment			
Young Rural Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program Manitoba	This program provides funding and support for young aboriginal business owners under the age of 40 in rural Manitoba including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs associated with establishing a business • Learning services such as seminars, workshops, educational tourism, and conferences. Funding: grants available with a minimum 25% contribution by applicant	✓	✓	✓
Aboriginal Education and Training Strategy Ontario	Ontario is providing \$6 million in Access to Opportunities Strategy funding to build and improve access to postsecondary opportunities for Aboriginal students and boost the number of Aboriginal graduates in Ontario. Supporting counselling, tutoring, career planning and cultural awareness services at colleges, universities and Aboriginal institutions through the Access to Opportunities Strategy.	✓	✓	
Métis Youth Program (MYP) Ontario	MYP is designed to provide support to unemployed youth between the ages 15 and 30 through a number of program options, available through individual client purchase or as community-based programming. Assistance can be provided through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internship Program • Community Service Program • Labour Market Information Program 	✓	✓	
Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) Ontario	The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) offers seven funding programs designed to help municipalities, entrepreneurs and businesses build, expand and grow. <p>Programs include:</p> <p><u>Emerging Technology</u> Promoting technology research and</p>	✓	✓	✓

Program	Description	Aboriginal	Youth	North
	<p>innovations that will contribute to future growth and prosperity for the North.</p> <p><u>Enterprises North Job Creation</u> Capital assistance for enterprises that commit to creating permanent jobs in Northern Ontario.</p> <p><u>Infrastructure and Community Development</u> Investing in infrastructure and community partnerships that promote job creation and economic growth.</p> <p><u>Northern Energy</u> Encouraging northerners to pursue innovative solutions to renewable energy generation and conservation.</p> <p><u>Northern Ontario Entrepreneur</u> Funding residents of Northern Ontario who plan to start their own for-profit business in the north.</p> <p><u>Northern Ontario Young Entrepreneur</u> Supporting young entrepreneurs in creating their own job opportunities by starting a new business.</p> <p><u>Youth Internship and Co-Op</u> Providing youth with hands-on work experience that will encourage them to live and work in the North.</p>			
<p>Aboriginal Youth Business Initiative (AYBI) Saskatchewan</p>	<p>The Aboriginal Youth Business Initiative (AYBI) is a financial program established to provide business loans directly to Aboriginal youth. Training and support services are also available. Any Aboriginal youth from age 18 to 35 inclusive is eligible, as are businesses, corporations and partnerships where at least 51 percent of the enterprise is owned and controlled by an Aboriginal youth.</p> <p>Funding: maximum loan is \$15,000 with an interest rate of 8.5%</p>	✓	✓	
<p>First Nation Youth Livestock</p>	<p>This program helps Saskatchewan First Nations youths (aged 12 – 19) get:</p>	✓	✓	

Program	Description	Aboriginal	Youth	North
Program Saskatchewan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loans to purchase a livestock herd • Skills in livestock production, business management • Access to training and support from experienced livestock operators 			

Other programs targeting Aboriginal or youth or entrepreneurs in the North:

Program	Description	Aboriginal	Youth	North
Ulnooweg Development Group Incorporated Atlantic Provinces	<p>This program is offered in the Atlantic Provinces through the Ulnooweg Development Group. (Funding is provided directly by Ulnooweg rather than by the provinces). Ulnooweg provides loans and business services to Aboriginal entrepreneurs in New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador and Nova Scotia</p> <p>Funding: Loans up to \$250,000 per project</p>	✓		
First Nations Equity Fund (Green projects) British Columbia	The Fund offers custom-structured loans at competitive rates to assist the equity requirements of First Nation proponents of commercially viable green energy projects across British Columbia	✓		
Career Employment and Education resources (CEER) - Victoria Native Friendship Centre British Columbia	<p>The Career, Employment and Education Resources (CEER) provides a communications area for clients to contact potential employers.</p> <p>Programs: Employment programs with follow up services (resume updates, consultation with program instructors...etc...) Urban Training Program, offers clients funding for training costs or wage subsidies Short-term education and training programs</p>	✓		
First Citizens Fund – Business Loan Program British Columbia	Each year, business loans from the First Citizens Fund support about 150 Aboriginal small businesses throughout British Columbia to start, expand or make improvements to their businesses.	✓		

Program	Description	Aboriginal	Youth	North
	Funding: Loans can be up to a maximum of \$75,000 with 1.5% borrower's fee.			
Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF) Manitoba	<p>CEDF's Mandate is "...to encourage economic development in Northern Manitoba through the provision of Financial Assistance and other forms of technical assistance..."</p> <p>Programs and Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loans for Business – Acquisition, Start-Up, Expansion • Community Programs • Fund Management – Administering Funds on Behalf of Other • Consulting Services <p>Funding: Loan limit varies depending on program. Loan limits range between \$75,000 - \$2,000,000</p>	✓		✓
Entrepreneur Loan Program Manitoba	<p>This program is intended to assist First Nation entrepreneurs by providing capital and/or working capital through subordinated interest-free loans to act as equity that will enhance the applicant's ability to leverage financing from other institutions and agencies.</p> <p>Funding: Each loan can be up to \$200,000 per project</p>	✓		
Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC) Manitoba	<p>LRCC is a Manitoba Métis-owned lending institution created to finance the start-up, acquisition and/ or expansion of viable Métis and Non-Status Indian controlled small businesses based in Manitoba.</p> <p>LRCC provides Business Loans, Business Development and Counselling Support in the following areas: Business Term Loans, Developing Business Plans, Analyzing Business Performance, Business Advisory Services, Understanding Financing Options</p>	✓		
Young Entrepreneurs	The program encourages Manitoba's young people to start their own full-time		✓	

Program	Description	Aboriginal	Youth	North
Program Manitoba	businesses and pursue self-employment as a career choice. Applications are accepted on a year-round basis from youth aged 18 to 29 years. Funding: Approved applicants are eligible for a grant of up to \$4000 to help defray business start-up cost and capital expenditures			
Métis Business Centre (Métis Development Corporation) Newfoundland and Labrador	Inuit-Métis businesses operating in Labrador and wishing to access opportunities related to the Voisey's Bay project; Nunatsiavut Government projects and other developments.	✓		
Business Development and Investment Corporation (BDIC) Northwest Territories	BDIC provides access to business financing, business support services and business development assistance. There are four financial programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit Facilities; • Venture Investments; • Contributions; and • Subsidiary Companies. Funding: Varies depending on the program. Ranges from \$10,000 -\$200,000.			✓
Sport Hunt Marketing Program Northwest Territories	The purpose of the program is to support initiatives by the barrenground caribou and polar bear outfitters to diversify their markets, develop new products and maintain existing facilities. Open to outfitters/operators in the Inuvik and North Slave Regions only. Funding: \$40,000/applicant; \$600,000 program budget for the 2010/2011 fiscal year	✓		✓
Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development Policy Northwest Territories	The SEED Policy has five programs, and multiple elements to each: <u>Entrepreneur Support</u> Applicants under this category are eligible for up to \$15,000. This program is for start-up funding, capital assistance, operational support, and market and product development.			

Program	Description	Aboriginal	Youth	North
	<p><u>Sector Support</u> This new approach provides a borrowing incentive up to \$15,000 a year for designated sectors through interest reduction for up to 2 years. Also, for sector research or investigation of new opportunities, there is assistance available up to \$25,000.</p> <p><u>Community Economic Development</u> This is a range of support of up to \$25,000 for community-based business research or support for activities such as arts festivals or community economic promotions.</p> <p><u>Micro-Business</u> This program contributes up to \$5,000 for self-employment activities aimed at traditional economy, arts, film etc.</p> <p><u>Business Intelligence and Networking</u> Where business trip costs exceed \$1,500, assistance may be provided to a maximum of \$3,000 per individual. Each applicant must contribute a minimum of \$1,000 towards eligible costs of each trip</p>			✓
<p>Tourism Product Diversification and Marketing Program Northwest Territories</p>	<p>The purpose of this program is to help prepare, expand or adapt NWT tourism operations to meet the emerging market demand for non-consumptive outdoor adventure vacations and experiences.</p> <p>Funding is available to assist in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Planning; • Development of Product and Product Packaging; • Marketing the Product <p>Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$25,000 for business planning. • Up to \$250,000 for development of products • Up to \$10,000 for marketing. 			✓
<p>Communities in Transition</p>	<p>Communities in Transition is a program that is responsive to the needs of</p>			

Program	Description	Aboriginal	Youth	North
Ontario	communities and regions and allows them to apply at any time during the year for help developing a strategy for their economic growth. For-profit businesses are not eligible			
Ontario Arts Council - Access and Career Development Program Ontario	This program supports Ontario-based Aboriginal arts professionals and arts professionals of colour. Applicants can request funding for training, mentoring or apprenticing in all contemporary and traditional art practices Funding: Applicants are awarded grants of up to \$15,000	✓		
Young Entrepreneurs Summer Company program Ontario	Program is targeted towards students, 15 – 29 years old, who want to start and run their own summer businesses. Funding: up to \$3,000 (\$1500 for start-up costs, \$1500 upon successful completion of the program)		✓	
Youth Entrepreneurs Partnerships Program Ontario	The YEP program provides funding to support projects through not for profit organizations in Ontario that facilitate the development of an enterprising culture amongst Ontario's youth (typically between the ages of 12 - 29) by providing them with educational, experiential and entrepreneurial opportunities. Funding: maximum \$75,000/project for delivery over a one-year period.	✓	✓	
Aboriginal Initiatives Fund Quebec	The AIF provides financial assistance for the emergence of Economic development and the creation and development of businesses in Aboriginal nations or communities. Programs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development (entrepreneurship, studies, local economic development, and economic mobilization) • Loan guarantees • Community infrastructures • Community action • Support for consultation 			

Program	Description	Aboriginal	Youth	North
	<p>Funding: Financial assistance budget ranges from \$5 million for community action to \$55 million for economic development. The total budget is \$125 million.</p>			
<p>Community Infrastructure Development Quebec</p>	<p>ORSEF = Regional Support Organizations for female entrepreneurs</p> <p>Under the initiative of Company F, four (4) organizations involved in their own way in supporting women entrepreneurs orchestrate their efforts to enable the creation of an organization to support women's entrepreneurship (ORSEF) in Montreal. Investment-Women-Montréal is a partnership between Company-F, the YWCA of Montreal (YWCA), the Community Loan Association of Montreal (ACEM) and the Regional Conference of Elected Montréal (CRE). The objective was to improve support services for entrepreneurship by setting IFM complementarity with existing resources</p>			
<p>Financial Program of ORSEF Quebec</p>	<p>One-stop resource centre for Métis individuals interested in establishing a new business or developing an existing business</p> <p>Services range from assistance with business planning and research, preparation of business plans, marketing and promotional planning, One-on-one business counselling and, business education courses.</p> <p>Funding: \$5,000 may be available to eligible participants to conduct market research or have a business plan developed through the Consulting Advisory Services (CAS Fund)</p>	✓		
<p>Local Development Centres Quebec</p>	<p>The Local Development Centres (CLD) develop and implement various financial assistance programs to facilitate business development for groups or individuals. 111 of 120 CLD Quebec are grouped under the Association of Local Development Centres of Quebec</p>		✓	

Program	Description	Aboriginal	Youth	North
	<p>Some of their programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Investment Fund (FLI) • The Development Fund of Social Economy Enterprises (FDEÉS) • The Young Entrepreneurs (JP) • Measuring Self-Employment Support (ATS) 			
First Nations and Métis Fund Saskatchewan	<p>The First Nations and Métis Fund makes investments in new or expanding businesses that are majority-owned or controlled by First Nations or Métis people in Saskatchewan's key strategic growth sectors: value-added agriculture; advanced technology; energy; mining; forestry and forestry developments; and manufacturing, as well as Aboriginal-themed tourism.</p> <p>Funding: \$1,000,000 - \$3,000,000 per project</p>	✓		
Northern Development Fund Saskatchewan	<p>The Youth Entrepreneurship Fund provides training and other opportunities that encourage the development of entrepreneurial and business skills for residents of Northern Saskatchewan under the age of 30</p> <p>Funding: Provides cost-shared financial assistance up to 70% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$10,000 for projects.</p>			
Northern Enterprise Fund Inc. (NEFI) Saskatchewan	<p>NEFI is a corporation that was established to support business and education in northern Saskatchewan. NEFI offers developmental, real estate and commercial loans</p>			✓
Youth Opportunities Unleashed (YOU) Saskatchewan	<p>The YOU program is to assist young adults between 18 and 34 years of age to consider opening a business in their community</p> <p>Funding: Maximum loan of \$15,000 to assist in starting or expanding a business</p>		✓	
Clarence Campeau Development Fund - Métis	<p>This program addresses the lack of capacity and infrastructure required to develop and sustain Métis community-owned businesses</p>	✓		

Program	Description	Aboriginal	Youth	North
Energy and Resource Program - Community Infrastructure Development Saskatchewan	Funding: A non-repayable contribution of up to \$200,000 Repayable contribution of up to \$800,000 Minimum funding from \$201,000 up to a maximum of \$1,000,000			
Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF) Saskatchewan	The Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF) provides funding support for Métis businesses, community economic development initiatives and assistance for the development of the management skills of new and existing Métis business owners and entrepreneurs. Six programs are administered by the fund with varying levels of financial support available under each. Five of the six programs are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loan/Equity Contribution Program • Large Scale of Joint Venture Projects Program • Development of Management and Marketing Skills Program • Business Plan Assistance Program • Support for Aftercare Program Funding: Range of \$10,000 – \$1,000,000 per project	✓		
Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF) – Community Business Development Program Saskatchewan	Funding: a one-time, non-repayable contribution up to the lesser of \$100,000 or 35% of the value of the fixed assets as identified in the program costs. As well, CCDF can contribute up to the lesser of \$200,000 or 35% of the value of the fixed assets as a repayable contribution, preferred shares, convertible preferred shares or convertible debentures. Total funding under this program not to exceed 50% of the value of fixed assets.	✓		

CONCLUSION

The 2010 Aboriginal Economy report noted some key demographic trends of Aboriginal youth in Canada:

- Nearly half the aboriginal population of Canada is under 25 years of age compared with less than one third of the general Canadian population;
- The Aboriginal population is growing twice as fast as the general population;
- The number of Aboriginal youth is growing, compared with a decline in the total youth population; and
- The employment rate for on reserve Aboriginal youth is less than half the rate for Canadian youth generally.

The report also noted that “economic self-sufficiency can only be achieved by northern Aboriginal communities through the establishment and growth of businesses within their communities.” Given the demographic trends noted above, entrepreneurial activity on the part of Aboriginal youth will play an important role in advancing community economic development.

The goal of this follow up project was to determine what overlaps exist between Federal and provincial/ territorial funding programs. One of the key findings was that although there are numerous programs available to young Aboriginal entrepreneurs, very few of the programs are specifically designed to target young Aboriginal entrepreneurs in northern regions: none at the federal level and few at the provincial or territorial level.

In terms of actual overlap, Provincial and Territorial business financing programs do provide many of the same services found in Federal programs. Quite often, the Federal government partners with the provinces/territories to provide funding programs. Due to this interdependence of programs it was difficult to identify any overlap that may be unnecessary. An Aboriginal youth entrepreneur may be eligible to access more than one program, from more than one level of government for the same project, which is to be expected considering the broad nature of Federal programming examined. Given the current array of financial assistance programming, it is useful to have more than one source of potential funding for businesses because the financing provided through any single program may not be sufficient to move forward with a project. In most cases Aboriginal youth entrepreneurs are competing with many other projects for limited pools of resources.

Program evaluation of any existing programs was beyond the scope of this project, but is something that individual jurisdictions may wish consider (being mindful of Federal programs available within their region) to understand how well current programs are meeting the specific needs of young Aboriginal entrepreneurs.

Future programs or redesigned existing programs need to be accessible and responsive to the demographic trends noted and the needs of Aboriginal youth entrepreneurs.

It should also be noted, outside of the financial programming issues, that many of the challenges mentioned in the 2010 NDMF report continue to be an obstacle for Aboriginal entrepreneurs to succeed in the Canadian economy. These challenges include:

- Lack of business support services
- Poor marketing;

- Lack of central contact point for programs; and
- Lack of financial literacy.

To meet some of these challenges we would recommend promoting and facilitating access to programs through an information portal. Continued efforts in increasing access to business programs (financing and other) are vital to Aboriginal youth entrepreneurs' successful participation in the Canadian economy.