

# SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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## ***MOVING TO SUSTAINABILITY IN FIRST NATIONS TODAY***

DATE: Thursday October 23, 2014

PRESENTED BY: Chief Isadore Day, *Wiindawtegowinini*



# OVERVIEW

- Since Time Immemorial
- Working Together
- Treaties = Economies
- Indian Policy
- Reconciliation
- Correcting the Ledger
- Sustainable Development

# GOAL

*Provide a discussion toward your dialogue,  
**Working Together**, toward Sustainable  
Development:*

***Land***

***People***

***Prosperity***

*A reflection on Nordiks Participation in  
moving forward*

# Key Considerations - CED

- **Wisdom:** Collective Knowledge/Experience
- **Love:** Community Spirit Our People / Our Families
- **Respect:** Ethical Practice / Standards
- **Bravery:** Assessing / Managing Risk Effectively
- **Honesty:** Good Faith Business – All Levels
- **Humility:** Discerning a Healthy Development Position
- **Truth:** Open / Transparent Approach

# Serpent River First Nation's Story

- Our People have always had a direct relationship with Creation. Our Legends speak about the Land, Water, Fire, Sky and all living things given by the Creator. We always knew that we must be ready to take Our Responsibilities as caretakers and stewards of the Land. Mining, deforestation and ill-fated plans for development would provide a calling for SRFN to advance its values and beliefs into action plans – development should never again happen without first assessing what it is the Creator had provided us; our gift and sense of ‘inherent obligation.’ Children, teachings, land, responsibility and rights – toward one another. Our efforts toward Economic Development were realigned 1990's – SRFN Vision/Mission: to ensure that Community and Environment were paramount. Our Policy toward **Sustainable Development** included the recognition of First Nation Jurisdiction and the establishment of the Environmental review Commission, based on: Anishinabe Aakii Genaabaajing Chi Nokini Gewin.

# Nordik Institute

## Vision

- Promoting more vibrant, caring and sustainable communities through research, dialogue, analysis and reflection dedicated to the practice of holistic community development.

## Goals and Objectives

- Build Northern Ontario's capacity to conduct research
- Conduct research that contributes to social and economic justice for Northern Ontario communities
- Provide evidence for informed policy and decision-making
- Focus on Indigenous, rural and Northern communities

## History

- The NORDIK research institute has evolved from the Community Economic and Social Development (CESD) program and research, and earlier research conducted under the leadership of Dr. Jong You of Algoma University.
- Incorporated in 2007, NORDIK Institute is a joint project of CESD and Algoma U, and has established strong links with other research institutes, universities, and colleges. NORDIK is committed to further developing its own research capacity by working closely with its community partners and providing mentoring to new researchers. To date, it has completed over fifty research projects at the local, regional, and national levels, and currently has many research projects underway.

# Sustainable Development Work With Nordik, SRFN, EDC

- 2013 – 2014 APPROVAL
  - ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW – Transitioning to community economic development ; a strategic framework and the establishment of a triple Bottom Line Sustainability development Model for SRFN
  - DEVELOP SRFN EDC GOVERNANCE AND POLICY MANUAL
  - REVIEW BY-LAWS AND MOU WITH SRFN – Nationhood
  - DEVELOP (7) DISCUSSION PAPERS – *Land People Prosperity*
  - UPDATE SRFNEDC MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
  - ADVANCING KEY PROJECTS **WORKING TOGETHER**
  - LEAD PANEL DISCUSSIONS Regional Round Table July

# Sustainable Development – Why?

- 1) Land Use is at an critical, globally;
- 2) Human well-being relies upon SD;
- 3) Competing economic goals, an anomaly;
- 4) Indigenous roles in SD; the time is NOW.



# History of the Serpent River FN Centre for Sustainable Development Project

- Historical tie to the **Land**; - Pre and Post Contact
- Treaty Making and Sharing of the Land
- First Nation Rights and Jurisdiction (Inherent/Sec35)
- Indian Act & Resource Development - NEGATIVE
- Forestry, Mining and Crown Land Use/Disposition
- 1800's, 1900's - moving forward in the New Millennium
- The **People**: Social Impacts of monetary Trade/Commerce
- Uranium Mining – Legacy, Fears and Effects
- Poverty and Unfair **Economy** of NR Development
- Social Ills and Impacts in our First Nations – WHY?
- **NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

# Since Time Immemorial

- We were all born with “Personal Sovereignty”
- Responsibilities and Rights - Nationhood
- Prophecy and Legends – Discerning our Path
- Land; People; Prosperity – The Creators Gifts
- We always had relationship: ***Working Together***

# Nation to Nation – Peace and Friendship

- Strength in Community: People / Family / Nation
- Contact – Eastern Door Discussion about the Future
- Wampum Treaties – Guides to Healthy Development
- Understanding the Agenda: War and Peace
- **Something is brewing!?**

# Treaties = Economies

- They Came they Conquered “NO” Treaty was made!
- 1763: British Declared the means / methods of Treaty.
- 1764: Unrest, Understanding, Underscoring Promises
- Covenant Chain – Ultimately it was about Economy
- Nationhood and Sovereignty: Canada’s Future secured.

# Indian Policy

- But wait – what about the Indians?? Reserves
- 1764; 1836; 1850; 1862 – (Under-fabric Treaty)
- Robinson Huron Treaties 1850: Reserves 4\$ Bucks!
- Residential Schools – Inhumane Indian Policies
- Loss of Self-determination: Infringement/Derogation

# Reconciliation

- Land: A mothers story; She felt Our Pain / Environment
- Encroachment; Injustice; Resistance – Fighting Back.
- Education, Case Law, *Canadian Constitution Sec (35)*
- RCAP: Canada makes History. Gathering Strength
- First Nation Jurisdiction: Responsibility and Rights
- Anishinabek Declaration – ROJ: Nation-Buidling

# Correcting the Ledger

- Understanding Self Determination / Infringement
- Using Case Law and Interpreting Our Path Forward
- The Collateral Damage: *Land; People, Prosperity*
- First Nations: A Culture of Planning & More Planning!
- Pulling the Community Blanket – Sometimes Alone!
- First Nation Youth / Elders: Expectations and Input

# Sustainable Development Essentials

## *Land – People – Prosperity – Order of Priority*

- Next Generation: Instructions are in Indigenous DNA
- Business must incorporate Indigenous Values!
- Community Economic Development: Nationhood
- Development shouldn't occur at an irreparable loss.
- Systems Model – Partners, Policy, Process, Priorities.



# Recommendations / Reflections: Community / Experts / Advisory

- Discussion / Dialogue / Decision: Sustainable Development **SD**
- Clarify Terminology: Economic Jurisdiction / Rights / Nationhood
- Advancing **SD**: Advisory, Policy Experts, Community
- Create a Time and Space to discuss “Community Story”
- CED = Plan – Implement – Evaluate: SMART / SWOT / PEST
- Consider policy benchmarks beyond Empowerment, to **Efficacy**.

# Recent Developments for CSD

- SRFN Mining Experience other NR Development
- Turning the corner on Capacity – Tribal Councils
- Education and Economic Leakage
- Section 35 Rights and the Duty to Consult
- Ontario Mining Act and other Legislations
- Economic Downturn 2007 / US Economy / SRFN EDC
- SRFN LED Plant – 2009 – Market Changes
- Alternative approaches suggested by AANDC
- 2012 – Suggestion of Business Hub Model
- 2012 – Government Funding and Investment, Changing
- 2012 – Environmental Review Panel
- 2013 – Center for Sustainable Development Proposed
- 2013 – Lands and Economy Summit
- 2014 – Regional Roundtable / Environment Summit

# CEOP – NORDIK – SRFN

## Engaging the Community toward SD

- Operations Plan for EDC – Sustainable Development
- Small Business and Band Owned Enterprise Action List
- Due Diligence Check List
- 7 Discussion Papers
- Recommendations on the SRFN/SRFNEDC: MOU
- CEOP Focus Group ToR
- CEOP Meeting Summaries
- Community Engagement Materials
- Community Engagement Strategy
- Strong Committed Working Relationship
- NORDICK – SRFN: Completed Working Documents

# CEOP: Update

- The challenges that existed prior to the CEOP process have been alleviated to a certain degree. The information generated through the 7 Discussion Papers is a solid foundation of modern perspectives, issues and possible routes for a path forward.
- The ultimate outcomes that were being attempted, continue to be worked on toward the achievement of the community of SRFN as a community, council and a corporation – the social contract that all development must be sustainable, has been achieved.
- Council and the Corporation are currently working on revisions to its formal working relationship so that the SRFN can get on with the business of utilizing the excellent work generated through the efforts of NORDICK.

# Miigwetch ~ QUESTIONS

***“The Creator provided us a time to reflect, gifts of knowledge and understanding – then he gave each one of us our relationships. Working together is obtainable because of everything that we have to our avail – the most valuable in this; each other.”***