Public Private Partnerships:
Economic Development in First Nation Communities

Executive Summary

This paper explores the potential for applying Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in a First Nation context. A Public-Private Partnership is not a privatization. It is a situation where government has chosen to provide a service or infrastructure project in partnership with a private sector partner.

Role of PPPs

Public-private partnerships are used primarily in situation where:

- the public sector partner can benefit from a specific expertise or technology the private sector has to offer;
- a small government can benefit from risk diversification with a private partner;
- a small government can benefit from an injection of funds" and,
- aspects of a project can be better managed by the private sector partnership and this will not compromise the public sector's responsibilities.

Public-private partnerships can be controversial. It is important to ensure that a PPP does not result in:

- public assets being sold for less than their true value to serve political ends;
- the public sector assuming too much risk; and,
- goals of the public sector (e.g. guaranteed access) being compromised.

Application to First Nations

This paper found that PPPs could assist First Nations who are seeking to develop new infrastructure or improve existing infrastructure. PPPs could assist First Nations in:

- expanding the scale or scope of the infrastructure they can develop;
- diversifying the risk of infrastructure;
- improving the management of their infrastructure;
- developing expertise in-house; and,
- developing business contacts to maximize their benefits from infrastructure.

For further information, please contact:
www.fntc.ca

FNTC Head Office
(250) 828-9857

FNTC Eastern Office
(613) 954-6201