

2003 BUSINESS/COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER MEMBERTOU CORPORATE DIVISION



The Membertou Corporate Division has made significant contributions to Aboriginal economic development by making progressive steps towards improving Aboriginal economic development. Membertou Corporate Division has decided to separate its government operations from its business ventures. Many in the public and private sector believe that the model that the Membertou Corporate Division utilizes is the model that many First Nations across the country should consider in adopting.

The Membertou Corporate Division is also the first First Nations community to achieve ISO 9001/2000 Certification. The MCD is the first Indigenous Government in Canada to meet these internationally recognized business standards. The ISO compliance demonstrates Membertou's ongoing commitment to develop an indigenous economy that is based on the pillars of sustainability, conservation, innovation and success, and positions them as a credible player in the global market economy. This feat is part of the MCD mandate to develop new policies and procedures to continue Membertou's process improvement practices.

The Membertou Corporate Division was nominated for the CANDO Economic Developer of the Year in recognition of its landmark decision made by the MCD to improve Aboriginal economic development by improving accountability issues within First Nations communities. Membertou is the first Aboriginal community in Canada to publicize their audited financial statements on the internet. This has improved trust between MCD and the government as well as the Membertou First Nations members.

The MCD also provides strategic business advice to the Membertou Chief and Council in regards to their on reserve gaming, fishing and retail ventures as well as manages all economic development financial requirements for development projects carried out by Membertou citizens. The MCD is also mandated to develop new policies and procedures with respect to continuing Membertou's process of improving practices.

Two years after opening their doors, Membertou Corporate Division has expanded to include a GIS mapping company: this company is known as the Membertou Geomatics Consultants (MGC); MGC has secured contracts from many governments outside Canada.

Membertou has made a commitment towards assisting other First Nations in Canada by providing its services (free of charge) to other First Nations who wish to investigate and/or emulate Membertou's successes.

Through these ventures Membertou's Division Corporation have had a direct impact upon the advancement of Aboriginal economic development.