



Preparing for the 5-Year Community Resiliency Plan

Session # 9

Economic Development

Introduction and Background

The “traditional” economy at Kanaka Bar has existed for thousands of years. Over time, our traditional barter economy evolved into a sales economy (post-contact) and eventually a wage economy manifested. All three economies exist today, with Kanaka Bar members continuing to make traditional items (e.g. food, tools and clothing) for gifts, trade and sale. Kanaka Bar has also adopted western products attained through agricultural, forestry, energy and mining activities, for both trade and sale. Many of members are employed in these sectors to earn a living.

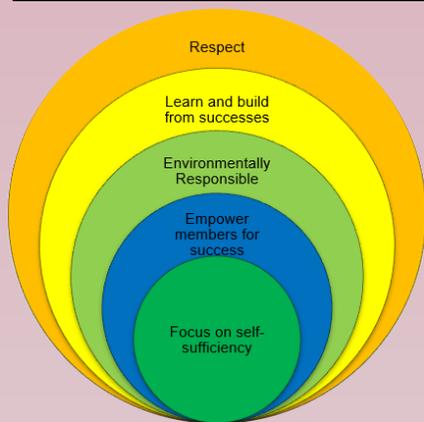
While it took many years to realize, Kanaka’s local economy underwent a significant and meaningful change with the development, construction and now operation of the Kwoiek Creek Hydroelectric project. The development, and our ownership, of this project has contributed many direct and indirect economic benefits to Kanaka Bar and the region. More importantly, the project has created diverse intangible benefits for Kanaka, helped revitalized our identity as a community and offered a foundation to strive towards self-sufficiency.

With the hydroelectric project complete, Kanaka Bar developed its first ever Community Economic Development Plan (CEDP, 2016). The CEDP established a series of community economic development goals, guiding principles, indicators of success and a 5-year implementation plan. We are now in the last year of the CEDP and seek input from membership to help define and advance our economic development priorities for the next 5 years through the CRP planning process.

What is Economic Development?

Economic development can be defined as our shared efforts that seek to improve economic and community well-being and quality of life for the membership and residents of Kanaka Bar by creating and/or retaining jobs within the local economy, supporting or growing the incomes of the membership, and enhancing the revenues generated by the Band and Band owned-businesses for the benefit of the community and its people. Economic development at Kanaka Bar is not motivated solely by profits, but also takes into account the realities of the people in the community.

It is important to note that increasing the quality of life is not just an increase in income but in other ways as well, each community faces their own opportunities, challenges, and priorities. We all face these on a day to day basis and we must recognize that economic development is based on learning from our failures and building from our successes. In what ways can you help improve the economic well-being and quality of life at Kanaka Bar?



Our Approach

To guide Kanaka Bar’s journey in economic development and community resiliency, a series of principles were adopted in 2016. These principles represent Kanaka’s overall approach to community economic development in that they aim to reflect our shared and community priorities and goals in advancing projects that create jobs, generate revenues and support our community’s vibrancy and self-sufficiency.



The road to self-sufficiency:



Our Foundation

Kanaka Bar has worked tirelessly to establish a strong foundation to support community economic development and resiliency. This foundation acknowledges our community's unique challenges and plays to our commitment and strengths to grow as a community. Our foundation's core lies in our comprehensive policies and codes, including our Membership Code, Elections Code and Governance Code. We've also established a comprehensive financial administration system that serves the community itself and our economic development companies.

It is important to highlight that Kanaka Bar developed an organizational structure and foundation that is purposeful and strategic to advance economic development. As you likely know, "Orange" is the arm of Kanaka that is responsible for advancing economic development. Kanaka Bar Land & Resources LP, the parent entity, holds 4 subsidiary companies including:

- Kwoiek Creek Resources Inc.
- Siwash Watershed Resources Inc.
- Kanaka Land & Holdings Ltd.
- Kanaka Bar Employment Services Ltd.

Through these companies and our strong governance model, we are empowered to strategically advance our community's economic development priorities and strive to achieve our community vision.

Our Current Priorities

The last 5-years has been one of progress, learning and success. While we have not implemented all of our envisioned economic development projects identified from 5 years ago, we have much to be proud of. Currently, our community is busier than ever work to develop foundational projects that will support our community's (economic) development for years to come. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Advancing the Must Stop Rest Stop.** Kanaka's team is working to redevelop the former Kanaka Bar Café Site on HWY 1. With 24-hour year-round operations, the MSRS will be an oasis for people, specifically for the Highway-1 travellers, looking to do business with Kanaka / membership owned retail businesses.
- **Constructing the Crossing Place Affordable Housing and Energy Project.** This project is core to our economic development as it will create new construction jobs, but also bring people back to our community and provide homes for people who are keen to contribute to a variety of community related employment / business opportunities.
- **Advancing Food Self-sufficiency:** Food self-sufficiency is essential to provide a stable quality of life to our community today as well the future generations. Since 2016, we have incrementally invested in food initiatives and developed various work related while doing that. We believe that we can continue to do so in the coming years and improve our overall self-sufficiency.
- **Enhancing our Water Infrastructure Capacity.** As our community grows and our (food) self-sufficiency objectives advance so too does our demand for water. Kanaka Bar is working to find ways to understand/conservate treated water and develop a raw water system drawing from both Nekliptum and Morneylun to provide water resources for key community (agriculture) projects.



Future Developments

As we look forward, it is important to recall that community economic development entails identifying the opportunities for land and resource use within our Traditional Territory and then implementing community-based programs, projects and initiatives which use the land and resources to generate short and long-term benefits for the community, employment for the membership and capacity development for all. As our 5-Year CEDP Implementation Plan comes up for renewal, Kanaka is hopeful we can leverage our CRP process to identify new economic development projects and investments that support our overarching community goals related to:

- Employment Self-Sufficiency
- Financial Self-Sufficiency
- Energy Self-Sufficiency
- Food Self-Sufficiency
- Infrastructure Resiliency

Join us Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021
Virtually via ZOOM - **Register Here!**

For questions, comments or assistance regarding Zoom,
Please contact: Engagement@kanakabarband.ca