



The Indigenous Economy and the Future of Canada

Tabatha Bull, President & CEO
November 2022



People are opting out of vital conversations about diversity and inclusivity because they fear looking wrong, saying something wrong, or being wrong. Choosing our own comfort over hard conversations is the epitome of privilege, and it corrodes trust and moves us away from meaningful and lasting change.

from Dare to Lead by Brene Brown



Who we are

- Established in 1984
- National, pan-Indigenous, member-based organization
- Non-profit and Non-partisan – Receives no core government funding
- Over 1,700 members
- Key programs – PAR, CAB, TFAB, Research, and Aboriginal Procurement Marketplace

MISSION

**To foster sustainable business relations
between First Nations, Inuit and Metis
businesses and Canadian Business**



What We Do

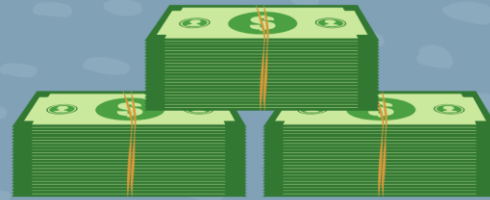




Indigenous Economy = Opportunity



According to the 2016 Census, there are nearly 63,000 self-employed First Nations peoples, Inuit and Métis across Canada.



The Indigenous population annually contributes

\$31 Billion

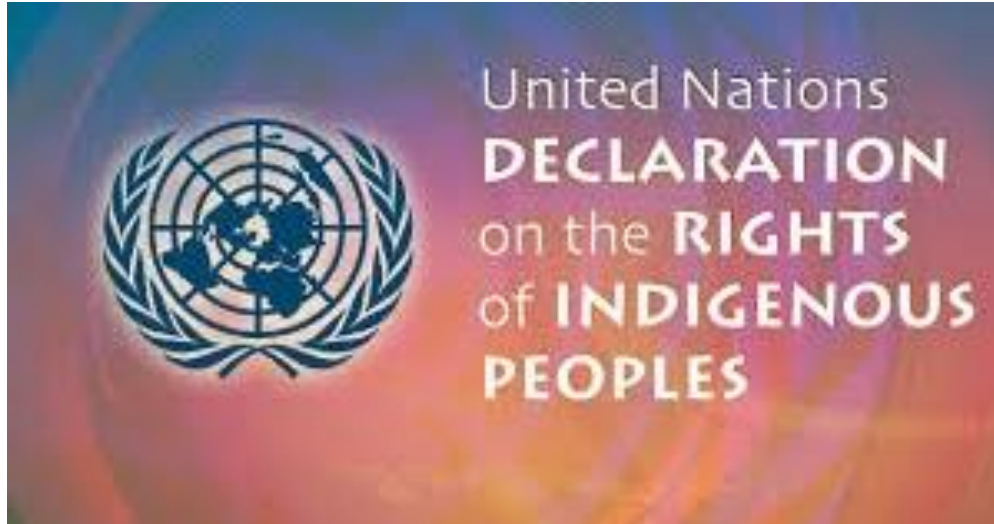
to Canada's GDP



The Indigenous population is young and growing: 44% of the Indigenous population is under 25.



Call to Action



CALL TO ACTION #92:

We call upon the corporate sector in Canada to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources.



Progressive Aboriginal RELATIONS

Canadian Council for
Aboriginal Business 

- Established in 2001
- Trademarked in 2020
- PAR is a certification program that confirms corporate performance in Indigenous relations at 4 different levels; the committed, bronze, silver or gold level.
- The PAR logo provides a high level of assurance to companies and communities as it is supported by a third-party independent verifier.
- PAR certified companies provide Indigenous employees a comfort level that an organization prioritizes Indigenous inclusion
- PAR is increasingly becoming a signal to investors of companies who are committed to their relationships with Indigenous people.



Progressive Aboriginal Relations

- **The only corporate social responsibility program with an emphasis on Indigenous relations across the corporation.**
- **Phased approach**
- **Committed and Certified Levels**
- **Verified by independent third party**





“For generations, Indigenous people have provided goods and resources to help Canada grow. That tradition continues today with more than 60,000 Indigenous businesses ready to help Canada compete and win. Indigenous business is thriving and ready.”

Supply Change



Aboriginal Procurement
MARKETPLACE



**Average per-capita income for Fort McKay
First Nation significantly higher than for
Alberta and Canada**

\$73,571

**Fort McKay
First Nation**

\$50,683

Alberta

\$38,977

Canada



Partnerships



“Indigenous people have been on the front lines of this for so long.” AJ Esquega, Mashkawiziin Energy
Kaishke Zaagiing Anishnaabek



Attract Investment

“With the Truth and Reconciliation Commission [of Canada] report, it’s clear that we can all play our parts. It’s on all of us,” says Katherine Wheatley, manager of the RRII. “The opportunity is there for pension investors and managers to make a difference.

Canada's Markets 5,646 Tweets

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

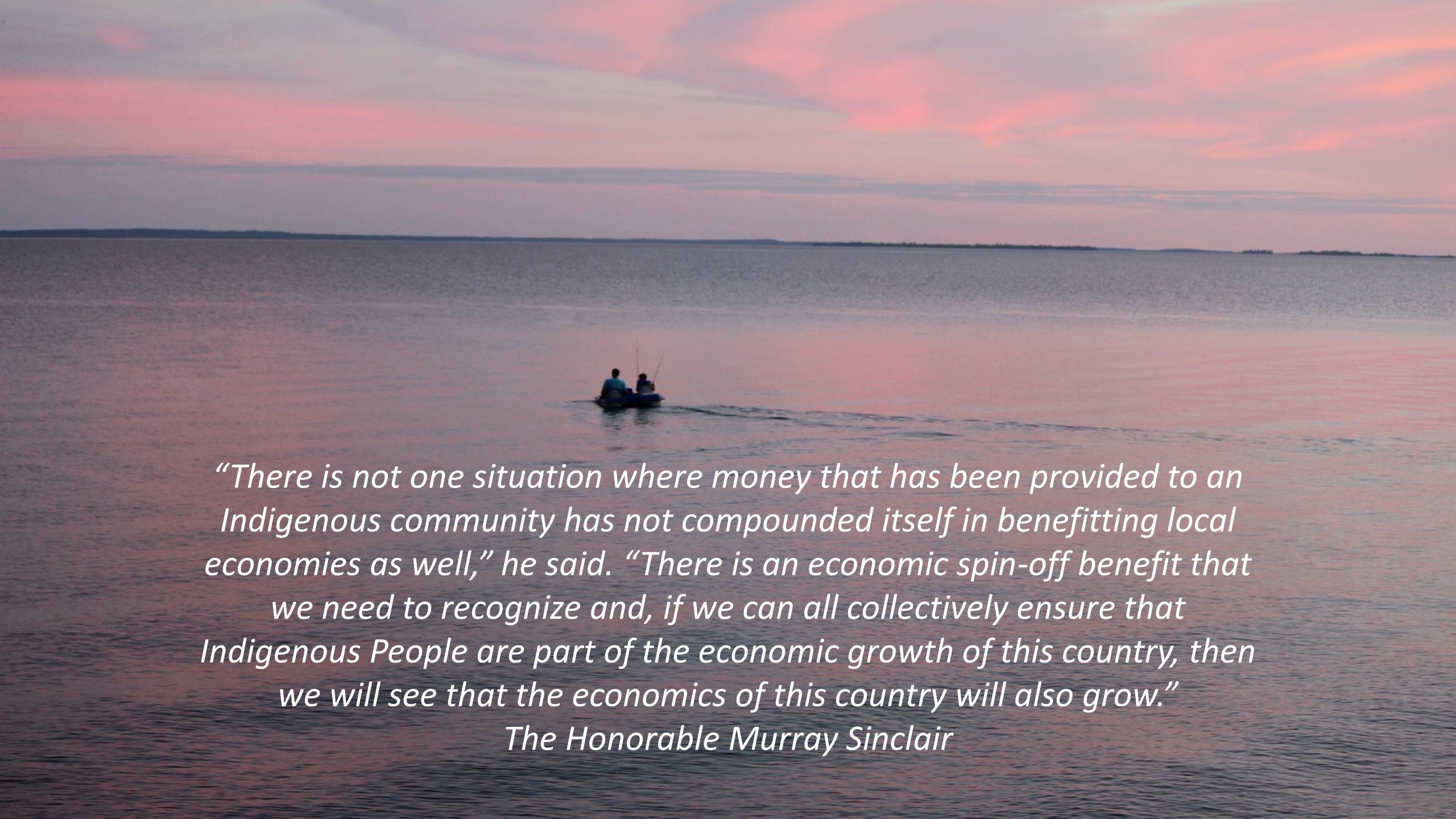
Canada's Markets · 2022-05-12

Visit [@TMXMoney](#) to view the TSX-listed companies that have been certified by [@ccab_national](#)'s Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program for being good business partners committed to prosperity in Indigenous communities:
ms.spr.ly/6017bKp4Z

**Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR)
Certified Companies**

LISTED ON TORONTO STOCK EXCHANGE

TMX money.tmx.com

A wide-angle photograph of a large body of water, likely a lake or sea, under a dramatic sunset sky. The sky is filled with soft, pink and orange clouds. In the center of the frame, a small boat with two people is visible, moving across the water. The water's surface is calm, reflecting the colors of the sky. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

“There is not one situation where money that has been provided to an Indigenous community has not compounded itself in benefitting local economies as well,” he said. “There is an economic spin-off benefit that we need to recognize and, if we can all collectively ensure that Indigenous People are part of the economic growth of this country, then we will see that the economics of this country will also grow.”

The Honorable Murray Sinclair



Chí-Múígwetch

