

Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business Overview and Challenges



Overview

CCAB builds bridges between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples, businesses, and communities through diverse programming, providing tools, training, network building, major business awards, and national events. Their mission is to promote, strengthen and enhance a prosperous Indigenous economy through the fostering of business relationships, opportunities and awareness for all of their members.

Challenges

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Challenge 1

Access to financing

The Indian Act has undergone many amendments, redactions and adjustments over the years, but it is still the foundational governing document for the legal elements of the lives of Indigenous people living on and off reserve. Much of the Act creates difficulties for entrepreneurs by preventing land on reserve from being claimed by creditors. This leaves entrepreneurs unable to use the property they live on as collateral for a loan. Canada's leading financial institutions have also been very hesitant to provide funding to Indigenous entrepreneurs.

How can current processes and policies be improved to ensure CCAB Certified Aboriginal Business members get access to better financing opportunities?

Challenge 2

Improving Indigenous procurement by government

For generations, Indigenous people have provided goods and resources to help Canada grow. That tradition continues today with more than 50,000 Indigenous businesses ready to help Canada compete and win. Indigenous business is thriving and ready. But, for many reasons, Indigenous businesses are underrepresented in the supply chains of most Canadian corporations and Governments.

How can Indigenous procurement by government be improved? Possible solutions could explore different ways to raise the profile of Indigenous businesses in the supply chain to ensure they stand a fair chance in the procurement selection process.

Challenge 3

Strengthening connections

CCAB is looking for ways to strengthen connections between corporate Canada, Government and Indigenous businesses from coast to coast. CCAB and members drive economic reconciliation that builds a bright future for everyone.

How can we promote more engagement between Indigenous businesses, non-Indigenous businesses, and governments?

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