

Churchill Region Economic Development Fund

Approved Projects - as of October 2020

01: Town of Churchill - Mould & Asbestos Abatement Program (\$191,737)

Many of the now-vacant buildings in Churchill have some degree of asbestos-containing materials. Asbestos was used as a fireproofing material, as well as added to concrete, asphalt, vinyl materials, pipes, siding, wall board, floor tiles, joint compounds and adhesives. This project trained ten previous Port of Churchill employees by providing them with a valuable skill set in mould & asbestos abatement. In addition to a one-week training program, this proposed project offered employment and practical experience in the remediation of two properties: The Theatre and the former Duke of Marlborough School.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

02: Town of Churchill - Heavy Equipment Operator Training Program (\$462,165)

The Churchill area's tourism infrastructure includes much more than just the physical town site. There are over 50 kilometers of essential roads and trails throughout unoccupied Crown lands in the area that support and sustain tourism growth and development. The demands on the existing roads are enormous and cannot sustain the combined tourism and upcoming construction traffic (for the new Churchill Marine Observatory). Through University College of the North, this program will train and employ as Heavy Equipment Operators ten previous Port employees affected by the August 2016 Port closure. The training will include both theoretical (classroom) and practical components. All participants will become Town of Churchill employees.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

03: Thompson Zoological Society - Boreal Discovery Centre (\$136,000)

The Boreal Discovery Centre represents a bold new vision for the former Thompson Zoo. The state-of-the-art facility will focus on programming and education about animal species that make their home in the Bayline region of the Boreal Forest of Manitoba. The Centre will offer interactive and experiential programming provided by facilitators who know both traditional and modern methods of harvesting, housing, health care and economic trade. Project funding will be used to develop a world-class live Sturgeon habitat showing the species in various stages of development. This exhibit will be the centerpiece of what they hope to be the next Manitoba Star Attraction in the region.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

Additional information on The Boreal Discovery Centre and Lake Sturgeon exhibit:

<http://www.thompsoncitizen.net/news/thompson/boreal-discovery-centre-unveils-new-renovations-at-sept-28-agm-1.23055387>

04: One North Inc. (\$562,000)

A group of Manitoba First Nations, northern municipalities and organizations have incorporated as One North and come together to propose solutions to issues plaguing the reliability and costs of Canada's northern transportation corridor, and especially those urgent matters related to the Hudson Bay Railway and Port of Churchill. One North will create a business case for northern stakeholders to lead in the acquisition of these critical infrastructure assets. The business case will also include a plan for governance, financing, and ongoing operation of the Hudson Bay Railway and Port of Churchill.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

Additional information on One North/Arctic Gateway Group's progress:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/churchill-railway-sale-omnitrax-1.4807450>

05: Atoskiwin Training and Employment Centre - Pewapun Construction Ltd. (\$334,000)

The Atoskiwin Training and Employment Centre (ATEC) is a 27,000-square foot non-profit, community-based accredited post-secondary training facility that was opened in 2006. ATEC's mandate is to produce and sustain a competitive Indigenous workforce by providing technical and vocational education and training to First Nations communities in northern Manitoba. With a growing wait list of students hoping to access their programs, ATEC is expanding current training capacity and creating more pathways that lead to employment and in-demand careers for Indigenous students. This will be done through the construction of a brand new 20,000 square foot "state of the art" training facility in Nisichiwayasihk Cree Nation (NCN). The new training centre will triple the intake of Level 1 carpentry students from 20 to 60, and will allow ATEC to train year-round in an indoor quality controlled facility. The new facility will train students to build mould-resistant and energy efficient bungalows, tiny homes, small houses and solar homes. Pewapun Construction Ltd. is the for-profit arm of ATEC.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

Additional Information on Pewapun Construction:

<https://pewapun.com/>

06: Nekoté Limited Partnership (\$190,400)

Nekoté Limited Partnership (Nekoté) brings together eight Swampy Cree Holdings Member First Nations with an on-ramp for possible future partnering with three others. Nekoté was conceived in mid-October 2016 in response to the announced closure of the Tolko pulp mill at The Pas, Manitoba. The First Nations came together to achieve a two-part mission:

1. Form a partnership with the new owner of the pulp mill; focusing the partnership on forest management activities that impact the ancestral lands of the Nekoté First Nations.
2. Following the formation of this partnership, work together with said company to establish a community liaison and co-management board approach (modeled after the Mistik management model in Meadow Lake, SK) for continuous communication.

This mission will work towards reconciliation of the relationship between the forest industry and First Nations in northern Manitoba, increase the security of fiber supply to the pulp mill, and capture new employment and business opportunities.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

07: Churchill Northern Studies Centre - Hydroponic Growcer Project (\$276,350)

The objective of this project is to establish a Growcer Modular Hydroponic Growing System at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre. The Growcer is a self-contained modular hydroponic system that grows plants without soil, using mineral nutrient solutions in a water solvent. The advantages of hydroponics in the North are significant, as they use limited space and allow for a higher density of food cultivation. The project will create new employment in the agricultural industry, create a new source of healthy greens, and generate a new revenue stream in the community. The Churchill Bayline region will be enhanced by this project through increased food security, new jobs and learning opportunities in northern food production, and increased participation from northern Manitoba in the Province's agricultural industry.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

Additional information on the Churchill Growcer project:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/churchill-hydroponic-produce-1.4568847>

08: Paskwayak Business Development Corp. – Smart Farm Project (\$262,250)

Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN) owns the Paskwayak Business Development Corporation Ltd. (PBDC), the corporate arm of OCN. PBDC's mandate is to lead the development of a sound economic base to achieve progress and the economic independence of OCN. In keeping with this mandate, PBDC initiated the Smart Farm Plant Factory Pilot Project (Hydroponics) in January 2016. Along with other community organizations, such as the Opaskwayak Health

Authority, the Smart Farm Pilot Project has proven to have tremendous impacts throughout the community in areas such as education, training, employment, health and well-being as well as food security. After noticing interest from other communities, PBDC began to investigate the feasibility of becoming a distributor of the Smart Farm Plant Factory technology. This technology includes both indoor and outdoor, as well as modular and non-modular systems. PBDC plans to create a distribution centre for this technology located in OCN, and will train and employ local individuals in installation, operation and management. PBDC will then market and ship the technology across Canada.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

11: Sea North - Remote Area Services (\$100,000)

Sea North Tours is a registered corporation operating out of Churchill, Manitoba. Remote Area Services (RAS) falls under the umbrella of this corporation. RAS intends to develop a winter route from Gillam to Churchill to haul freight with specialized vehicles overland. This project will help to deliver freight at lower costs to Churchill residents. This will help residents stay in Churchill, and help businesses stay open in light of rising shipping costs. If the rail line re-opens RAS can redirect their equipment to ship freight from Churchill to communities in Western Nunavut. RAS is partnering on the project with Fox Lake First Nation and Polar Industries of Winnipeg.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

Additional Information on the Ice Road:

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/clearing-a-path-to-churchill-464688753.html>

12: Manitoba Chambers of Commerce - Made in MB Trade Missions (\$149,250)

The Manitoba Chambers of Commerce will work in partnership with the Province of Manitoba and with local Chambers to set up Economic Development Tours and meetings to highlight potential economic development opportunities in northern Manitoba communities. By offering interested business owners with a two-day program that will provide them with introductions and a better understanding of those communities, the hope is that they will be enticed to grow their businesses through trade and partnerships within Manitoba. Initial communities that will be targeted to host Trade Missions would be Churchill, Thompson/Nelson House Cree Nation and The Pas/ Opaskwayak Cree Nation. This will result in strong potential for business growth in Northern communities and employment opportunities for Northern Manitoba residents.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

13: AKI Foods Inc. - The Meechim Project (\$105,000)

AKI Foods Inc., is a non-profit social enterprise that promotes food security and economic development opportunities for Indigenous communities. Their organization was established in 2015 as a sister social enterprise of AKI Energy, which itself is an award-winning non-profit social enterprise that partners with Manitoba First Nations to reduce utility bills through smart, cost-effective investments in renewable energy development. The Meechim Project originated from a collaborative partnership formed between AKI Energy and Garden Hill First Nation in 2014 to address the community's need for an affordable, healthy food system. There are five initiatives in total involved in this project: The Meechim Healthy Food Market, the Alex Keno Memorial Farm, School-to-Farm, Farm School, and the Healthy Foodbox. As this project continues to grow and expand, AKI Foods has requested funding to help install electricity, purchase a small sawmill, increase healthy food market storage through the purchase of a fridge and freezer, as well as attract, support and retain workers.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

16: Town of Churchill – Training to Employment Project (\$100,000)

The community of Churchill continues to undergo significant negative social and economic challenges related to the inoperable rail line and general uncertainty of the Port of Churchill and Hudson Bay Railway. As a means of ensuring the community takes steps to mitigate against the negative outcomes, the Town of Churchill will identify employment opportunities in the immediate and long term to coordinate training to employment for unemployed and underemployed individuals. This will ensure the viability of the community and businesses as well as ensure access to a ready labour force when the community is ready to resume normal operations. The Training to Employment Project involves working with community clients and in conjunction with other community programs to ensure an integrated approach to client success.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

23: Fox Lake Cree Nation Development Corp. - Ice Road Project (\$180,000)

In June 2017, Fox Lake Cree Nation, Polar Industries and Remote Area Services (RAS) began planning a cat train service (using tracked vehicles pulling sleighs) to haul materials and supplies from PR 280 (Gillam, Manitoba) to Churchill, Manitoba, an approximate 300-kilometre trip each way. This plan led to two of the parties (Fox Lake CN DC and Polar Industries) agreeing to form a joint venture (JV) for the project; the JV would then enter into contracts with RAS and other third parties.

While the overall goal is to provide a desperately needed cargo service to Churchill, Fox Lake's goal for the project is to prioritize creating work and employment for local transportation companies, truck drivers, heavy equipment operators and labourers. The training provided to

individuals contracted or employed for this project will be an investment in the region, its employment standards and provide these selected individuals with a skill set that can be utilized as an advantage in many different projects in the future.

Responsibilities between the three major parties have been divided as follows: Polar Industries will transport materials and supplies to the junction of PR #280 and RC60 (the Manitoba Hydro's transmission line corridor and right of way to Churchill), and then at RC60, the materials and supplies will be cross-docked to the custom sleighs and hauled to Churchill by Fox Lake and Remote Area Services. Fox Lake Cree Nation Development Corporation's involvement in this project has assisted in the creation of sustainable local economic growth, employment and business opportunities for the Churchill region. This project will assist with operating costs incurred by Fox Lake Cree Nation's Development Corporation related to wages, rented equipment, accommodations, fuel, and maintenance to both the road and vehicles.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

24: Manitoba Forestry Association & Frontiers School Division - Youth Career Exploration at the Manitoba Envirothon (\$40,000)

The Manitoba Envirothon, a program of the Manitoba Forestry Association, is a land-based learning competition for high school students. Teams of 5 students learn about Wildlife, Aquatics, Soils, Forestry and Climate Change. This year's Envirothon will be hosted in Churchill, and is the first time the event has been run in the North. The goal is to bring youth across the province to a location they may never otherwise visit, to showcase the vastness of our province in terms of ecoregions, and to expose all youth to long-term northern opportunities.

Career opportunities in the North are incredibly varied and stand out as unique in many ways. During the Envirothon event, Frontiers School Division will help to showcase northern career exploration, particularly in the Churchill town and area. This project will ensure youth are exposed to northern career information multiple times throughout this event. Students will have both formal and informal opportunities to engage with a large variety of local individuals, entrepreneurs, and organizations, allowing them to gain a much better perspective on what Northern Manitoba has to offer.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

27: Gangler's North Seal River - Canoe Trail Mapping (\$36,000)

Gangler's North Seal River Lodge is well-established in the sport fishing and hunting industries. In 2016, Gangler's began to expand into the eco adventure travel market. This led them to explore the viability of offering high-quality canoe trips through the North Seal River. In 2017, Travel Manitoba showed interest in the possibility of supporting this venture. This was followed by a connection to Hap Wilson, a legendary figure in Canadian canoeing who committed to working with Gangler's to map out the proposed canoe routes.

This project will create well-planned and extensively mapped canoe routes on the North Seal River and other rivers in the area. These canoe routes will help to enhance the tourism quality in Northern Manitoba by increasing the offerings and ultimately creating a stronger tourism product where no such product existed before. Short-term economic benefits also include seasonal employment for local residents.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

28: Merit Motion Pictures - March of the Polar Bears Film (\$150,000)

Merit Motion Pictures' (MMP) latest project, "March of the Polar Bears" (National Geographic Prime Time Event - 2x1 Hour), documents the secret world of polar bears on the sea ice, following the bears through the 'winter and spring' seasons. MMP is planning to document seal hunting behaviour, mother and cubs interacting and polar bears' relationship with other fauna all through a northern and Inuit perspective.

The main focus of this project is promoting northern culture and bear-viewing tourism throughout the region. This is one of the first National Geographic shows where northern and Inuit guides will be featured prominently, making decisions on the sea ice and tracking bears. The goal is to use Churchill as the focal point of bear viewing but show that polar bears are found all through Hudson Bay at different times of the year. During their shoot, MMP will employ bear security personnel, sea ice guides, camera assistants, camp managers and additional snowmobile drivers.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

29: Flin Flon Aboriginal Friendship Centre - Restaurant Training Initiative (\$105,610)

The Flin Flon Aboriginal Friendship Centre has been in existence since May of 1966. Like other Friendship Centres, they are community based and directed, seek initiatives to support quality of life, self-determined activities, learn about and maintain cultural identity, as well as promote respect and equal access to participation in society.

This project, the Restaurant Training Centre Initiative, will integrate the practical experience of UCN's Culinary Arts Certificate Program into the Friendship Centre's current restaurant operation. The Program is a 10-month course, 30 hours per week, and food prepared by the students in the Program will be available for sale to the public. The Program will be delivered at the Flin Flon Aboriginal Friendship Centre in a dedicated classroom and use their existing commercial kitchen space. Instructional methods will include a combination of theory and practical formats appropriate to the subject matter. Students will need to meet UCN Admission requirements.

The vision of the Restaurant Training Centre Initiative is to support economic participation and development while sustaining the Friendship Centre's core values and achieving organizational

prosperity. Real time integration demonstrates skills, competencies, and explores new economic development and social enterprise opportunities for the Friendship Centre.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

30: Spirit Way & Boreal Discovery Centre - Wolf Centre of Excellence (\$164,060)

A couple of years ago, Spirit Way (SW) offered to rebuild the Thompson Zoo's (now operating as the Boreal Discovery Centre) wolf area into a Wolf Centre of Excellence (WCE). The WCE is expected to be an anchor attraction within the newly transformed Boreal Discovery Centre (formerly known as Thompson Zoo) that will be complementary to their other exhibits, attract more visitors and provide new sources of revenue. In 2015, a partnership was signed with the Boreal Discovery Centre (BDC) and SW to build the Wolf Viewing and Study Centre building, which would be turned over to the BDC when completed.

A WCE at the BDC could become a unique educational, cultural, research and tourism attraction of its kind in the world. It will provide jobs and trades training during the construction stage. The final facility will also require trained animal care, interpretive and programming staff, marketing and management staff and can draw from a local and regional job market. It will create opportunities for trappers and guides to promote and expand their livelihoods, as well as to offer wolf story telling, wolf howling, educational and cultural programming for visitors. This would create a new wolf economy in the north based on the growing interest worldwide in ecotourism.

This project will be one piece of BDC's much larger Master Plan, and the beginning of SW's WCE building. Through this project, existing strategic plans and agreements will be reviewed, revised and finalized by SW and BDC during the visioning and business planning processes. Both groups will also take part in social enterprise development training to explore and assess revenue generation opportunities that support the social, cultural and/or environmental impacts of their work. Further, the WCE will become a reality through the development of architectural concept drawings.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

Additional Information on the Wolf Centre of Excellence:

<https://www.thompsoncitizen.net/news/thompson/spirit-way-unveils-fundraising-goal-for-wolf-centre-of-excellence-at-beerfest-1.23471932>

31: St. Paul's Anglican Church (\$30,000)

St. Paul's Anglican Church has been an integral part of the community since its inception and continues to be an important religious and cultural landmark. With the exception of Fort Prince of Wales, St. Paul's Anglican Church is the oldest structure in Churchill. Because of its rich

northern history, unique construction and its northern cultural connections, St. Paul's Anglican Church was recognized by the Province of Manitoba as a structure of historical significance. It was designated as a Provincial Heritage Building in 1996.

The majority of travelers to Churchill want some culture and history along with their polar bear and beluga whale experience. The role of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Churchill's early history, as well as its ongoing relevance in the community, is of great interest to visitors and something tourist operators can share beyond the wildlife. Thousands of tourists go through the church every year, and it is an important point of attraction for both tour groups and individuals.

Hudson's Bay's harsh climate has required extensive ongoing maintenance repairs to the Church each year. Over the past few years, the Parish of St. Paul's has done extensive work including but not limited to: updated electrical, new storm windows, repaired and re-leded the stain glass windows, and thorough insulation upgrades to improve the building's energy efficiency. This project will help with the re-siding of the church building, the Church's last major upgrade to ensure the building is safe, structurally sound and preserves its historical integrity. This final upgrade will ensure that St. Paul's Anglican Church remains a 'must see' spot for many years to come.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

32: Churchill Cruises (\$62,000)

The Kothari Group will commence passenger cruise vessel operations to/from the Port of Churchill to/from Greenland starting in September 2019. These cruises will focus on providing the passengers with a high-quality experience onboard luxury passenger vessels to some of the most pristine and unique areas in the Canadian Arctic waters, including stops in Churchill, Nunavut and Greenland. In addition, the cruise ship will stop at Marine Wildlife Protected Areas & Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, so passengers can experience nature at its finest and get a truly unique, historical and cultural eco-tourism experience through the Churchill Hudson Bay Region.

Churchill Cruises Ltd., a project by the Kothari Group, will build on the Churchill experience presently enjoyed by tourists through enhancing the economic activity in and around the community of Churchill. Local artists making artwork, such as carvings, paintings and wall hangings will see an increase in the demand for their products. Local artists engaged in the performing arts, such as throat singing, drum dancing, etc. will also see an increase in demand for their services. There will also be increased demand for goods and services required by the cruise ship, as well as passengers onboard the vessel, such as food and drink, accommodations, transportation services, tour excursions and other related services.

STATUS: APPROVED, WITHDRAWN AFTER PARTIAL COMPLETION

33: Nanuk Operations - Nights Under Lights (\$55,479.03)

Caleb Ross currently owns and operates a polar bear and wildlife guiding company called “Nanuk Operations” in Churchill, Manitoba. Nanuk Operations takes photographers, film crews and other small groups of tourists out of Town in search of polar bears and other wildlife. Guests often ask to be taken out if the aurora make an appearance. Caleb felt as though moving into northern lights season seemed to be a natural progression from what he currently offers.

Northern lights season has been growing year over year in Churchill and to take advantage of that Caleb has devised a northern lights product, “Nights Under Lights” aimed mainly at photography groups.

Once established, there are plenty of expansion possibilities for this business to grow into other seasons and uses in Churchill.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

01b: Town of Churchill - Mould & Asbestos Training Phase II (\$272,090.49)

This project builds on the previous project funded under CRED in which the Town of Churchill worked together with UCN to offer skills development in mould and asbestos abatement, providing employment to 11 individuals and addressing environmental liabilities existing in the former Duke of Marlborough School.

The second phase of this project will train 10 new individuals and employee those that have previously taken training. The main project for these individuals would be to decommission the Navy Base, a multistory building that is comprise of two buildings. The project will provide employment for up to 15 people.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

41: Itsanitaq Museum (\$14,273.77)

As Manitoba’s 5th oldest museum, the Itsanitaq Museum has been operating in Churchill, Manitoba for 74 years. Open year round, the museum’s clientele includes: local residents, school kids, business visitors, northern visitors and tourists from all over the world. It is an integral part of the local tourism industry and a must-see place for organized tour groups. It has been listed as a top attraction on the TripAdvisor website on numerous occasions. The museum has also played an important role in promoting Inuit culture and art, benefitting both Churchill and communities further North, including the Kivalliq district of Nunavut.

This project, which would allow for an update to the Museum’s humidity control, is critical to preserving both the Museum and its contents, allowing for the future sustainability of the Museum according to environmental standards. Across the Canadian North, there is a struggle

to keep, maintain and develop museums where people of the North can see their own artifacts/art in their land. The continued operation of the Itsanitaq Museum holds obvious value for educational, historical and tourism purposes.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

42: Tundra Inn and Restaurant - Kitchen Expansion (\$31,161.29)

The Tundra Inn operates a hotel, Restaurant and Pub in Churchill, Manitoba. The Tundra Inn's Restaurant and Pub are seasonal, typically opening June until late November, and have been operating for over ten years in the community. The hotel is open year-round and has been operating for over 35 years. Unfortunately a recent fire burned down Gypsy's Bakery, another restaurant in Churchill, where a significant portion of meals for Tundra Inn's guests were prepared. The Tundra Inn kitchen is too small to accommodate the additional volume of meals, resulting in a need to expand operations and build an additional kitchen.

The Tundra Inn and Restaurant has a small log building that will be converted into a kitchen, allowing for increased capacity, take-out, and catering options for the community and tour operators. The kitchen will be open during peak and off-season, employing three new full-time employees. This has a strong economic benefit to the tourism industry and local economy of Churchill, Manitoba.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

43: Community Futures North Central Development - Snowmobile Project Phase I (\$27,000)

This project builds on Tourism North's goals, through partnerships with Travel Manitoba, Community Futures Greenstone, Community Futures Cedar Lake, and other key partners. The Northern Manitoba Tourism Strategy, developed by Tourism Manitoba, identifies "Tourism Product and Experience Development" as "high priority". Specifically, it references the fact that enhancements to tourism hub communities and to existing tourism experiences, and the creation of new market-ready tourism experiences, grows tourism in Northern Manitoba. The stakeholders of this project believe that integral to economic growth in the area is further development of a snowmobile product.

In order to develop this product, Community Futures North Central Development has proposed a one-day Summit focused on Northern Manitoba's Snowmobile Tourism Strategy. This summit would result in the development of a strategic plan going forward, and achieve the following goals:

- i. Development of a mission statement and vision
- ii. Facilitated SWOT Analysis/Discussion

- iii. Development of strategic priorities and timelines based on priority areas
- iv. A plan for base line for measurement of the economic impact over set amount of years

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

44: Forbes Forest Finds - Training & Expansion (\$90,000)

Forbes Forest Finds (FFF) is a business located in The Pas, Manitoba. FFF has been developing for five years and has shown economic growth in all of the years since its establishment. The company has expanded from a small business selling products at local craft shows, to a well-known company selling non-timber forest products to other businesses in all corners of the world. As a non-timber forest product company, FFF honours the skills and abilities of the communities they visit to buy products from. They partner with the communities to build on their income security by purchasing thousands of dollars worth of product from trained pickers. They are able to employ individuals from many age classes as there are very few physical attributes required to produce a marketable product.

This project will continue to build on FFF's current business model, through the development of a more formal training process for potential harvesters in remote northern communities (in partnership with University College of the North). FFF also plans to build a new, larger facility which will include a training area, processing plant and shipping dock. With the addition of a facility, the company will be less impacted by varying weather conditions and will be able to process larger volumes of non-timber forest product.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

48: Town of Churchill - Airport Revitalization Study (\$25,000)

Ownership changes in the Hudson Bay Rain Line, the subsequent rail line repairs and the priority on reliable rail service to Churchill have once again positioned Churchill as a key Northern transportation hub, and an integral part of Canada's Arctic Policy. In order to further develop this hub strategy, re-establish Churchill as a northern resupply hub and improve overall year-round usage of the corridor, a feasibility assessment of opportunities to improve utilization of the Churchill Airport is required.

A feasibility study will be developed to assess and catalogue new economic opportunities involving the Airport, identify preliminary infrastructure requirements to support those opportunities and to understand the employment and revenue potential involved in developing this sector. The feasibility study will serve as a foundational block in the plan to restore the Churchill Corridor supply chain, and once again position Churchill to become a focal point of the northern supply chain. Multiple industries will be impacted by a sustainable growing Churchill Airport operation, both in Churchill and throughout Manitoba.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

49: Kinosao Sipi Business Development Corp. - Northern Lights Growcer (\$169,940)

Under Kinosao Sipi Business Development Corporation (KSBDC), the economic development arm of Norway House Cree Nation (NHCN), a project has been initiated to improve access to fresh high-quality vegetables in Norway House and the surrounding region. This project, called the “Northern Lights Project”, is being executed with the help of Food Matters Manitoba and the BDO Canada LLP. These three organizations (KSBDC being an extension of NHCN) make up the “Northern Lights Team”.

Funding has been obtained by Food Matters Manitoba to purchase a Growcer unit – hydroponic growing system – for NHCN. NHCN administration, working alongside the BDO Canada LLP, have taken on the role of engaging and educating community members and local stores of the benefits and opportunities that will arise with the establishment of this growing system in the community. Currently, stores, and by extension people, in the Norway House region have serious logistical challenges in getting enough and affordable vegetables to market. Food is shipped over great distances by truck, rail or air and must be handled numerous times. Sometimes food becomes partially frozen or stuck due to shipping backlogs and cancellations. The overall outcome is that food is wasted, expensive, and quality is low.

The Growcer unit is a state-of-the-art farming system that combines hydroponic technology with precision climate controls to enable growing of fresh produce with ease year-round. This has previously been too expensive to be feasible with other types of lights or greenhouses. Once established, the growing system will begin paying for staff to manage the system, provide additional own source revenue towards community services and contribute to expansion of the project, leading to additional employment and opportunities for the people of the Norway House Region.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

50: Paskwayak Business Development Corporation - OCN Aerospace (\$91,319)

Paskwayak Business Development Corporation (PBDC), the economic development arm of Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN), has been working closely with OCN’s Workforce Training Team, Manitoba Aerospace Association (MAA), Boeing Canada, and Magellan Aerospace to explore the potential of a manufacturing facility in the region. Currently OCN and its surrounding region, including the Town of The Pas and the RM of Kelsey, are supported by one main industry, which is the forestry industry. With adequate forest resources becoming scarcer and further away from the processing facility within the last ten years, there have been numerous threats of closure of the paper mill, as well as a permanent closing of the sawmill operation.

The establishment of a manufacturing facility in the region will become the base for a transition from a one-industry region to a multi-industry region. This will provide more economic stability for the region as well as a wider scope of high-paying employment opportunities for skilled labour and professional services. Further, the increased economic activity generated by a

manufacturing facility will create spin-off opportunities for supporting services (housing, food services, etc.). These spin-off opportunities are expected to expand as an increase in regional wealth is realized (tourism, various service industries, transportation opportunities as the region experiences an expansion in scope and breadth of its economic activities, etc.).

PBDC recently completed Phase I of this project, which involved a feasibility study with favourable results. The development of a business plan in Phase II will help OCN/PBDC to make a decision on whether to pursue Phase III of this project. While this initiative is OCN-driven and directed, the intent is to provide regional benefits that would accrue to the Town of The Pas and the RM of Kelsey through a marked increase in economic activity.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

51: World Trade Centre Winnipeg - Northern Perspectives Project (\$30,600)

The business and trade relationship between Manitoba and Nunavut has been in a general state of decline in recent years, in no small part due to the uncertainties and challenges related to the Churchill rail and port. Meanwhile, competition has notably increased in key areas such as shipping and logistics, coming largely from Eastern Canadian ports. This has affected businesses in Manitoba, and the Churchill region in particular.

Despite this, the regional ties and affinities between Manitoba and Nunavut, especially with Kivalliq, remain strong. With significant economic and resource development underway in Nunavut, there continues to be new potential for business and trade relationships. Further, with a new ownership group in place for the rail line and port, and a strong, positive vision for the future, the time is right for Manitoba to begin the process of rebuilding these important economic ties and re-establish Churchill as the Gateway to the Arctic.

This project is a joint effort between World Trade Centre Winnipeg (WTCW), the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce and the Town of Churchill to work with organizers of the 2019 Northern Perspectives Conference. Spearheaded by the WTCW, this partnership's main focus is to promote new business opportunities for Manitoba, share the vision and potential offered by renewed transportation links to Nunavut via Churchill, and to organize a business delegation with participation of Churchill region businesses in this timely conference.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

54: Community Futures Greenstone - Sherridon Fur Trade Preservation (\$5,690)

The Town of Sherridon has less than 100 residents, most of whom grapple with limited year-round economic opportunities. Most residents either trap or fish for a living, operate as outfitters in the tourism sector, or work as municipal council members. Many residents resort to seasonal jobs; for example, some work at the firefighter attack base that operates there in

the summer, and/or with other tourism businesses in the surrounding area (e.g. Wings of Kississing).

The Town of Sherridon resides in the Community Futures (CF) Greenstone region, meaning that the CF office supports Sherridon entrepreneurs and tourism business owners, and will even attend town council meetings on occasion. CF Greenstone has made many contacts in Sherridon, including a Conservation Officer employed by Manitoba Sustainable Development. Recently, the Officer became aware that several Sherridon trappers are using old prohibited traps. He is also aware that the trappers cannot afford to purchase the new certified traps approved by the Government of Manitoba. Many of these trappers have been practicing subsistence trapping, i.e. traditional land use, for generations. For these reasons, the Officer felt conflicted – either he enforces the law by seizing their traps and therefore destroying the trappers’ livelihoods, or he turns a blind eye to the law and allows them to continue using inhumane traps.

With the financial burden of the new traps weighing on his mind, Sherridon’s local Conservation Officer reached out to the CF Greenstone office, as well as the Mayor of Sherridon, Dennis Hatch, for assistance in the matter. This concern has resulted in a partnership between Community Futures Greenstone, Kississing Development Corporation and Sherridon Community Council. Together, the partners have created a project entitled “Sherridon Fur Trade Preservation”, which would allow for the purchase of new traps and support to 20 trapline holders.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

58: Town of Churchill - Social Enterprise Training & Exploration (\$13,121.59)

Assessments undertaken as part of the Training to Employment (T2E) project have identified common barriers to employment in Churchill, and shown that those needing help with preparing for, finding and obtaining employment experience multiple barriers. Looking for successful and innovative strategies for removing those barriers, the T2E coordinator connected with Community Economic Development (CED) experts in Winnipeg. In learning about the clientele of these experts, it became clear that specific areas of Winnipeg share similar characteristics with Churchill in terms of socio-economic parameters of unemployment.

Social enterprises throughout Manitoba have developed successful approaches that address, and gradually, remove barriers to unemployment by considering the underlying factors of poverty, high unemployment and skills gaps. The goal of this project is to bring two CED experts to Churchill and explore the potential for similar approaches in Churchill. The CED experts would meet with stakeholders, assess the status quo and assist in identifying entrepreneurial opportunities that would impact both the social and the economic well-being of the community.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

59: Town of Churchill - Driver Training Project (\$11,500)

The Churchill Community Class 5 Driver Training Project (Phase 1) seeks to train and certify people who live in Churchill as driving instructors. The project is the result of conversations and discussions with employers, businesses and the general public in Churchill. Businesses have expressed their need for more employees with driver's licences (anything from Class 5 to Class 1) and the community has identified not having access to instructors and classes as a barrier to obtaining a driver's licence. Not having a driver's licence is one of the main barriers to employment.

There is strong support from the community, from the town administration, and from local employers to address this challenge. Phase 2 of the Churchill Community Class 5 Driver Training Project is being negotiated with other funding sources and will see an integrated, and subsidized, high school and adult driver training program in the community.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

60: Waaka'iigan Inc. - Non-Profit Sawmill & Housing Project (\$3,302.01)

Waaka' iigan Inc. is a First Nation owned and operated not-for-profit company located in Garden Hill First Nation. Waaka'iigan's mission is to provide quality, local lumber for housing in their First Nation. Local wood that meets structural code requirements will be built under a new cost-effective process of logging, grading and building of houses in remote communities with local people's skilled trades. Using local resources for housing will result in more durable and affordable houses that are culturally appropriate, providing both jobs and quality houses. This company will make immense progress in solving their housing crisis through local solutions to local needs. This project also helps to address the youth employment crisis by employing and training local labour to become highly skilled trades people.

A key component of this project's success is the sizeable investment in a labour force of 15-25 workers that started in October 2018 through a 15-month, holistic course called "Boreal Home Builders" that trains Garden Hill workers. Boreal Home Builders covers every part of a housing/logging operation to equip people to manage and maintain a sawmill and run a housing corporation going to end of December 2019. The training includes job readiness, forestry management, logging, maintaining small motors (chainsaws, forestry, sawmilling, carpentry, plumbing and house building in 2018-2019). Although a small sawmill has been operating in the community for years, the addition of a business plan and model for using lumber and wood in housing is needed to grow this into a sustainable housing corporation able to meet the needs for employment and long-term housing.

STATUS: APPROVED, WITHDRAWN AFTER PARTIAL COMPLETION

61: Mitik 299 Corp. - Non-Profit Sawmill & Housing Project (\$226,275)

Mitik 299 Corp, working closely with a similar company in Garden Hill, is a First Nation owned and operated not-for-profit company located in Wasagamack First Nation. Both First Nations struggle with similar issues when it comes to housing and unemployment, but each are separate, sovereign First Nations with slightly different needs and assets within their own communities.

Mitik's mission is to provide quality, local lumber for housing in their First Nation. Local wood that meets structural code requirements will be built under a new cost-effective process of logging, grading and building of houses in remote communities with local people's skilled trades. Using local resources for housing will result in more durable and affordable houses that are culturally appropriate, providing both jobs and quality houses. This company will make immense progress in solving their housing crisis through local solutions to local needs. This project also helps to address the youth employment crisis by employing and training local labour to become highly skilled trades people.

A key component of this project's success is the sizeable investment in a labour force of 15-20 workers that started in October 2018 through a 15-month, holistic course called "Boreal Home Builders" that trains Wasagamack workers. Boreal Home Builders covers every part of a housing/logging operation to equip people to manage and maintain a sawmill and run a housing corporation going to end of December 2019. The training includes job readiness, forestry management, logging, maintaining small motors (chainsaws, forestry, sawmilling, carpentry, plumbing and house building in 2018-2019). Although a small sawmill has been operating in the community for years, the addition of a business plan and model for using lumber and wood in housing is needed to grow this into a sustainable housing corporation able to meet the needs for employment and long-term housing.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

62: Arctic Trading Company - Trader's Table (\$19,580.44)

The Arctic Trading Company (ATC) has been approached by a number of tour companies to partner on a new eating establishment, which would be available for the 2019 tourist season. The loss of one of Churchills' busiest restaurants, Gypsy's Bakery, created a need for another restaurant choice for both locals and tourists. The ATC has an existing restaurant area attached to it which has not been operational for 7 years. In order to reopen the restaurant, it would require upgrades to the kitchen and dining area, as well as some re-branding. This project will help support the renovation and re-opening of ATC's restaurant, under the name Trader's Table. Trader's Table will offer new employment to at least four people, including a cook, two servers and a second kitchen hand. The restaurant will also offer portable meals available to tourists on their excursions.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

63: World Trade Centre Winnipeg - Kivalliq Trade Show (\$27,311.23)

Following the 2019 Northern Perspectives Conference, the World Trade Centre Winnipeg (WTC Winnipeg) and the Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF) have identified potential for further trade development between northern Manitoba (MB) and Nunavut (NU). The regional ties between MB and NU remain strong, while renewed transportation links to NU through Churchill have potential to provide opportunities for a greater trade relationship between the regions.

The Kivalliq Trade Show Society will be hosting the 10th edition of the Kivalliq Trade Show (KTS) in Rankin Inlet, NU, from September 23rd to September 25th, 2019. The KTS is the major annual business event for this region of NU, and one of the best opportunities for companies to explore new business, build valuable relationships and learn about the market. Attending the 2019 KTS with a Manitoban delegation is an excellent and timely opportunity to leverage the fact that MB companies are looking to follow up on the Northern Perspectives conference held in Winnipeg in February 2019. Through a coordinated effort by WTC Winnipeg and CEDF, companies will have the opportunity to promote their products and services to the NU business community at this event. This coordination will include planning, preparation, logistical support, targeted introductions, and post-event follow-up consultations and consulting.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

64: University of Manitoba - International Glaciological Society Sea Ice Symposium (\$39,200)

The International Glaciological Society (IGS) co-hosts a sea ice symposium every 5 years. The Centre for Earth Observation Science (CEOS), at the University of Manitoba, is excited to be hosting the first ever IGS sea ice conference in Canada. The 2019 event is expected to be the largest sea ice symposium ever hosted by IGS with over 350 scientific experts (from both poles), northern community members, business, policy makers and community leaders in attendance. The 2019 symposium will highlight the role of science as a decision making tool in socioeconomic policy development as it relates to northern communities. The symposium will encourage holistic discussions amongst scientists, stakeholders and policy makers regarding the most recent changes, long-term trends and variability in climate change, and how best to engage and communicate with the general public.

In order to highlight Hudson Bay as a gateway for Arctic research the University of Manitoba, the Churchill Northern Studies Centre (CNSC) and the Town of Churchill will partner together to support the IGS Sea Ice Symposium. Through this proposal the partners will promote and highlight Churchill, Manitoba as well as the use of the CNSC and the new Churchill Marine Observatory (CMO) to help facilitate Arctic and marine research, and to bring international researchers to Churchill as an emerging centre of Arctic research excellence. It will also promote and showcase Churchill after the Sea Ice Symposium with a 4-day excursion to the Town of Churchill. The excursion will bring global leaders in Arctic research from world-

renowned institutions to the community of Churchill (CNSC and CMO) while immersing the participants in the town's Arctic tourism and ecotourism activities. This project is helping to support events during the conference, as well as the excursion that follows.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

66: Community Futures Greenstone - FDC Economic Transition Plan (\$35,000)

In 2016, one of the primary employers for the Flin Flon regional area (Hudbay) announced the partial closure of their business and the possible loss of 900 jobs held by local residents. In December 2018, they determined the definite closure of the business in this region, confirming a deficit of 900 jobs. Since the inception of the communities of Flin Flon, Creighton and Denare Beach, the region as largely taken for granted that the mining industry would be a continuous source of employment, tax revenue and financial support for community initiatives. There has not been a sense of urgency to develop comprehensive economic development tactics. The region has now realized it is imperative to shift focus to diversification and other opportunities, leading to the formation of the Flin Flon, Denare Beach and Creighton (FDC) Regional Economic Development Commission in 2017.

The objective of this project is to develop foundations to implement a Regional Economic Development Analysis and to focus on Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) of the businesses in the geographic area of the City of Flin Flon, the Town of Creighton and the Northern Village of Denare Beach. The following outcomes and activities will be included in this project:

Business retention and expansion, economic impact study, investment readiness assessments, economic development transition strategy, and a regional marketing & communications strategy.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

67: Community Futures North Central - Real Northern Experiences (\$18,200)

Real Northern Experience (RNE) is an online platform that enables northern Manitobans to use their time and knowledge to share a unique northern experience with visitors to the region. It is an opportunity to generate a new source of income while showcasing the rich culture and heritage north of 53. The purpose of RNE is to provide visitors to northern Manitoba cultural enrichment, education and of course, a good time by means of product development. It allows current entrepreneurs and budding entrepreneurs an outlet to provide visitors a "real northern experience".

Northern Manitobans will have the opportunity to create a tourism experience that they will facilitate based on their personal schedules and abilities. For example, an experienced paddler can advertise to lead a canoe trip, a local artisan can give a lesson on her craft, or a family can

host visitors for a traditional meal and story-telling evening. These facilitators are considered Real Northern Experience Guides. RNE Guides come from all walks of life but one thing they have in common is their desire to share their knowledge, expertise or culture with visitors to northern Manitoba.

Because this is a new venture for the north and unlike any other tourism development project, CFNCD and its partners feel that a complete business case and feasibility study be undertaken to fully understand what is required for this project to be successful and sustainable. In addition, the project done properly, can put Northern Manitoba in a leadership role for other regions to follow. Therefore, CFNCD and its partners would like CRED to consider this project in two phases. Phase one would deliver a business case and feasibility study, thus phase two would put the business case into action based on the study's recommendations.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

68: Tamarack Foods - Bakery and Deli Expansion (\$25,000)

Tamarack Foods was originally established to provide a locally owned, affordable alternative to the Northern Store. They emphasize quality and healthy food choices. Following the loss of Churchill's only bakery and deli, Tamarack Foods has been considering an expansion to fill this gap in the community. However, their current store does not have enough power in the building to run the equipment needed to operate bakery and deli equipment. This project will help solve this concern and assist with Tamarack Foods' current barriers to expansion.

This project funding is conditional on the creation of two short-term construction jobs, as well as one new full-time position within Tamarack Foods. They are also predicting further job creation in there as the bakery grows in popularity. Local restaurants will have the opportunity to purchase fresh breads and desserts from the bakery, whereas currently all breads and desserts used by local restaurants are shipping frozen from Winnipeg.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

72: Thompson Chamber of Commerce (\$10,119)

Winter and cold weather testing has grown in Thompson to become a substantial industry sector for over the last 30 years. At first it was promoted and managed by individual hotels, and later, an ad hoc committee including the Thompson Chamber of Commerce. In 2003, the Thompson Chamber undertook a major feasibility study, the Pearson Report, that outlined the potential for various manufacturers that need to test their equipment for hot and cold temperature performance. This is essential before manufacturing any vehicular equipment.

Thompson Unlimited (TU), a local development corporation, took over the management of this industry for twelve years until it ceased in 2014. TU undertook strong marketing campaigns to attract testers in the vehicle, heavy equipment, aerospace and snowmobile industries. TU staff

attended trade shows to promote the cold weather in northern Manitoba and the amenities that Thompson had for the testing companies. TU attracted dozens of companies to Thompson and hundreds of engineers and technicians every winter. However, since TU ceased 5 years ago, no one has been marketing to attract new business.

With the current exponential growth rate of electric vehicles (EV) around the world, Thompson can bring testing and research business back to the City. The climate is Thompson's greatest advantage. The intent is to attract EV testing to Thompson this winter and become the lead in this explosive and very competitive new sector.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

73: Arctic Gold Honey (\$25,000)

Steven Larocque, owner of Arctic Gold Honey, had been involved in agriculture and beekeeping throughout the Province of Manitoba for many years. However, in 2011 he decided to introduce beekeeping to the Thompson Region on an experimental basis. With the warming environment, he believed it possible to produce honey in the North.

Currently running 20 hives just outside of Thompson, Arctic Gold Honey's honeybees have demonstrated their ability to survive and consistently produced acceptable quality and quantities of honey in Thompson's Northern environment. Arctic Gold Honey believes there is potential for expansion in many areas including increased honey production, value-added products and tourism.

Arctic Gold Honey has identified a phased approach to growth over the next three to five years, with larger goals identified beyond. In this initial phase, their priorities include formalizing and expanding the business operation, increasing honey production, as well as researching and testing new value-added products.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

74: Northern Association of Community Councils - Market Trail Project (\$101,500)

The Northern Association of Community Councils (NACC) believes community vitality lies within supporting their strengths and building community capacity. NACC is proposing to develop and coordinate a 15-month project to build an enterprise eco-system called the Market Trail Project (MTP). The goal of the MTP is to provide a clear pathway for enterprise growth and provide a catalyst for identifying local industry and community needs with tools, training and unique marketing opportunities for home grown, community made products.

The main objectives of the MTP includes:

- Providing training and tools for entrepreneurial growth and success

- Build a collaborative marketing strategy
- Coordinate participation in a series of rotating seasonal markets regionally and provincially
- Develop a sustainable operational model by the end of the 15-month project

The combined direct and indirect opportunities this would provide NACC communities is three-fold: financially, educationally and socially. This project has the potential to create jobs, create businesses as well as have economic impact and engage our youth in both learning new skills and earning additional funds.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

75: Shamattawa First Nation - Solar Project (\$85,000)

Shamattawa First Nation is currently developing a community solar leasing company that will focus on clean energy technologies, capacity building, training, and new business creation, along with partners Sunspear Microgrid and University College of the North. This project has received conditional approval contingent on other funding sources being confirmed.

STATUS: APPROVED, WAITING ON CONFIRMATION FROM OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

76: Wa Ni Ska Tan Alliance of Hydro Impacted Communities - Value Added Fish Products (\$70,000)

As an Alliance, Wa Ni Ska Tan has been documenting the many adverse impacts of hydro development in Manitoba, which are environmental, economic, cultural, and social in nature. This proposed project will help fishers in Grand Rapids as well other northern Indigenous communities explore and evaluate the economic potential of value added fish products, which in turn will reflect a proactive response to a fishery whose productivity is being adversely affected by Manitoba Hydro and the pollution of Lake Winnipeg.

A common issue in commercial fishing is the issue of bycatch, which results from fishers retaining their higher value commercial species, while disposing of lower value species, since they would otherwise count against previously established fisher quotas. Unfortunately, it is impossible to target one species without the inevitable capture of others, their juveniles, or species at risk. Global discard of bycatch is a persistent and largely undocumented problem that threatens the sustainability of many fisheries, aquatic biomass and biodiversity. This, in turn, leads to collateral destruction of ecosystems, a decline in food security for those who rely on fish as their main source of protein as well as a threat to the economic security for many fishers.

This is an exploratory project that will include research, nutritional analysis of bycatch as well as a feasibility study and business plan. The economic benefits of this project include added revenue for involved fishers, an opportunity for interested fishers to shape far-reaching and

impactful market opportunities associated with value-added products, and the potential for renewed optimism regarding Indigenous fisheries over the course of this project. Unfortunately, such opportunities and optimism are currently rare for Indigenous fishers in northern Manitoba.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

77: Fox Lake Construction - Business Expansion Project (\$86,820.75)

Given the anticipated conclusion of the construction of the Keeyask Generating Station (KGS), and the loss of an estimated 100 jobs at the project for Fox Lake members, Fox Lake Cree Nation has been actively pursuing new economic development opportunities to ensure continued and additional employment for their community members. Throughout the Keewatinohk Converter Station project and the KGS, Fox Lake has successfully secured Joint Venture and Direct Negotiated Contracts, growing its complement of construction equipment. Fox Lake plans to continue to leverage the experience and assets they've gained through these projects and increase their participation in the region's construction sector.

This particular project is specific to expanding Fox Lake's Construction business to include road maintenance. While Fox Lake is contributing a number of their own resources to this project, including equipment, wages, shelters and supplies, they are seeking some additional funding to assist in the cost of specialized equipment required for the job. This project is expected to create 3.5 new jobs and keep money in the region as opposed to having an out-of-region contractor. It is also part of larger and ongoing plans beyond limited-term construction projects, including the establishment of a secure construction yard.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

78: City of Thompson - Thompson Region Fire Paramedic Program (\$153,000)

Thompson 2020 is a partnership between the City of Thompson, Vale, the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada, tasked with mitigating the workforce and economic effects of the closure of the Vale Smelter and Refinery in Thompson. One of the components of Thompson 2020 is to improve the City's business and economic development through the development of critical sectors. Through the implementation of this, as well as other priority areas such as resident retention and workforce utilization, it was identified that there is a clear demand for Fire-Paramedic professionals in Thompson and the region. In Thompson alone, Fire-medical turnover is on average 30% annually.

One of the barriers to regional recruitment is the lack of training opportunities for Fire-medics in northern Manitoba. While Thompson 2020 started the process of identifying training opportunities and implementing a new Fire-medical program, the City of Thompson will lead this project alongside an advisory committee. It is expected that initiating this new program will improve the health and emergency sector, as well as reduce staff turnover in Thompson and

surrounding northern communities. Currently, the only public fire-paramedic training program available in Manitoba is in Brandon, and it does not have the capacity to enroll all qualified candidates annually, so there is also an opportunity to attract out-of-town students to this program.

STATUS: APPROVED, WAITING ON FURTHER FUNDING CONFIRMATIONS

79: World Trade Centre Winnipeg - Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce AGM (\$1,900)

Over the last year, the World Trade Centre Winnipeg (WTC Winnipeg) has undertaken several initiatives focused on cultivating business and trade links between Manitoba and Nunavut, creating new opportunities for northern Manitoba. Recently, they received an invitation to participate in the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce (KCC) Annual General Meeting (AGM), which would be a timely follow-up to their trade activities in 2019.

The current request for project funds is to support travel and participation costs associated to attending the 2020 KCC AGM and meeting with strategic partners in the Kivalliq region to continue building these relationships. The WTC Winnipeg is also in the process of developing a new multi-year trade development project that will specifically focus on the Manitoba-Nunavut business relationship. An in-person visit coinciding with the KCC AGM will be used as an opportunity to bridge with past projects, obtain buy-in from partners and potential funding sources in Nunavut, and ensure that planned economic development activities are consistent with the needs of the business communities in both Manitoba and Nunavut.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

80: Community Futures North Central Development - Snowmobile Project Phase II (\$69,495)

The snowmobile tourism industry has great potential for development in northern Manitoba. The first and necessary step towards developing this potentially lucrative industry was to facilitate a plan for action. With initial assistance from CRED (Snowmobile Project Phase I) and several other partners, a Snowmobile Tourism Summit was held in Snow Lake, followed by a series of consultations in other communities. Since then, four Task Force Committees have been struck. CFNCD and their partners are now equipped with a solid plan to move forward with developing and branding northern Manitoba into a premier snowmobile destination.

The strategic priorities of Phase II include: 1) Enhance trail infrastructure through maintenance and development, 2) Provide stakeholders resources for governance and structure to facilitate and lead the project, 3) Expand snowmobile tourism attractions along major routes and in communities, 4) Expand snowmobile special events in communities, 4) Ensure high quality services are available to visitors and, 5) Determine a plan for strategic marketing and promotion

CRED funding is provided to assist in the Northern Manitoba Snowmobile Tourism Project (Phase II) being able to achieve all the strategic goals. This funding, along with additional funds from Western Diversification's Canadian Experiences Program, will help provide the necessary resources to fulfill the aforementioned strategic priorities.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

81: Ma Mow We Tak Friendship Centre - Kitchen Expansion Project (\$51,350)

Since opening their new facility in 2012, the demand for Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre's rental facilities and catering services have grown substantially. Where the services were previously utilized primarily by local organizations and agencies, the demand has now expanded to include people from throughout the province coming into the City of Thompson to host meetings, conferences, or events.

Unfortunately, the Hostel Kitchen is extremely small and outdated as it was originally used only for client meals and very small catering orders. As the demand grows, so do the number of requests for a wider variety of foods. In order to meet the demand, and continue to grow their catering business, Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre plans to expand their Hostel Kitchen. In doing so, they will be able to meet the following objectives:

- Provide catering services to local groups, organizations, agencies and businesses.
- Provide employment for citizens of the City of Thompson through direct employment at Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre Hostel's kitchen, and the hiring of local contractors and trades. It is expected that 2 Part Time and 2 Full Time jobs will be created through this expansion.
- Generate revenue that assists in supporting the Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre, so they are able to continue offering affordable programs and services in the City of Thompson, which contribute to the commitment of creating a healthy community.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

82: Mahihkan Bus Lines - Shuttle Bus Expansion Project (\$92,424)

Since 2018, Mahihkan Bus Lines has expanded significantly through both new routes and new services. Most recently, they have ventured into providing shuttle services in addition to already offered bus service for line-haul as well as charter groups. Without these services, residents of Northern Manitoba are left with limited options for travel.

Offering the shuttle services sets Mahihkan Bus Lines apart from the other bus companies. Mahihkan Bus Lines is offering the new shuttle services as an express transportation and freight shipping service for Northern Manitoba. They have also recently started a shuttle service from Thompson to Winnipeg and return instead of running the large motor coach buses. They have received positive feedback on this change as their passengers find the ride is quicker, smoother

and warmer. Further, the passengers receive a more intimate level of customer service with the smaller shuttles. Finally, offering shuttle services is a more cost-effective way to provide transportation to Northern MB residents, resulting in increased affordability as well.

Mahihkan Bus Lines' continued expansion of their shuttle service will help to fill the need for inter-city travel that is required for northern students, patients, and elderly people; freight for required services such as medical, government, and business; and inner-town transportation for tourism groups, hockey teams and local employers. The priority of this project is to create at least three new shuttle routes, and subsequently, three new jobs. Motor coach buses will continue to be used for The Pas to Winnipeg line haul and for charter work.

STATUS: APPROVED, COMPLETED

83: Nekoté Limited Partnership - Business Phase III (\$89,062)

This project builds off of Nekoté's previous phases, further allowing the organization to develop and realize their operational goals. While Nekoté has a primary focus on the forestry industry, the breadth of focus for Nekoté is much larger and includes all resources and economic opportunities available on the territorial lands of their member First Nations. A significant priority of this next phase in the Nekoté's lifecycle is to focus on identifying and acting on economic development opportunities. Funding during for this project will assist the organization in their efforts to explore these opportunities and become more self-sustaining.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

84: UCN Workforce Development Centre - Class 1 Training Project (\$33,860)

The intention of this project is to partner with First Class Training Centre Inc to provide a full year of class 1 training in Thompson, thereby proving that there is a market for on-going (multi-year) driver training, permanently housed through the University College of the North (UCN). As the demand for Class 1 drivers continues to increase, this project will grow to meet the need by training northerners in the north for northern jobs. This is considered a direct to employment training program, with many additional spin-off benefits for the local economy.

STATUS: APPROVED, INITIAL STAGES

85: Town of Churchill – Training to Employment Extension (\$23,290)

The Training to Employment (T2E) project was initiated as a reaction to the significant negative social and economic effects that Churchill has undergone in recent years. The project was set up to mitigate some of those effects, but also to ensure the population and labour force are prepared for future growth. The continuation of T2E will ensure there are targeted human and financial resources available to make sustainable, long-term improvements for the community of Churchill during this important time of shaping the town's future.

The T2E program was initially funded in partnership between CRED and the Province of Manitoba. The Town of Churchill is requesting an extension of the funding for the T2E coordinator position for six months. This time is needed to transition the project into new capacities and to guarantee the continuity of training and employment related services in the community.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

86: Churchill Northern Studies Centre – Rocket Greens Phase II (\$55,081)

The Rocket Greens project began with the arrival of the Growcer Unit in October 2017. The unit was delivered as a state-of-the-art farming system that combines hydroponic technology with precision climate controls to enable the growth of fresh produce in a self-contained shipping container. The first seeds were planted in the unit on November 15, 2017. As crop production began to ramp up at the beginning of January 2018, the first goal of improving local food security was addressed with a contribution to the Christmas community feast and a local pop-up market. The products from the Growcer were branded as Rocket Greens and a produce subscription service called the Launch Box was introduced. Rocket Greens are also provided to both local grocery stores, the Churchill Health Centre Cafeteria, one local restaurant, and to the seasonal tourism lodges.

This project seeks to improve the Rocket Greens function and quality during the production, as well as reduce waste due to inadequate storage facilities. Historically, the CNSC has existed as a research and education organization and has a state-of-the-art facility in which to deliver on its mandate. The addition of the Growcer Unit and the Rocket Greens program has allowed them to continue to support research, as well as think more creatively about their mandate and the use of their space at the CNSC in order to perform weekly harvest and distribution of between 350-450 pieces of produce.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

87: CMF Holdings – Winter Weather Testing Site Expansion (\$80,000)

The partners of CMF Holdings have been involved in the winter weather testing industry for over 20 years. Some time ago, they were approached to develop a test site and facility for global winter testing in Thompson, Manitoba. This resulted in the purchasing of a small, 30-year-old helicopter shop which had been vacant for 15 years, to house CMF Holding's test facilities. Since then, CMF Holdings has invested over \$1.2 million to build and develop the site, parking, facilities and infrastructure including a 6,500 square foot conference facility on site.

After many successful years of operation, their testing groups have now grown beyond the capacity of the current shop/infrastructure, and CMF Holdings has had to rent additional shop space this past season in order to accommodate clients. Further, the winter weather testing industry is making technological strides with the onset of hybrid, electrical, hydrogen and

autonomous vehicles. This project will involve designing and building a much larger shop with the proper tools, bays, floor drains and additional hoists to accommodate more vehicles. It will also help CMF Holdings bring the fibre optic line closer to their site, to allow for the transfer of sufficient, reliable and secure data.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

88: Thompson Chamber of Commerce – Winter Weather Testing Centre of Excellence (\$125,500)

Winter and cold weather testing has grown in Thompson to become a substantial industry sector for over the last 30 years. At first it was promoted and managed by individual hotels, and later, an ad hoc committee including the Thompson Chamber of Commerce. In 2003, the Thompson Chamber undertook a major feasibility study, the Pearson Report, that outlined the potential for various manufacturers that need to test their equipment for hot and cold temperature performance. In 2005, the City of Thompson received funding towards a 10-year contract and created an economic development corporation, Thompson Unlimited, to stimulate economic growth and diversification. Thompson Unlimited operated for over 10-years and played a significant role in developing the winter weather testing industry based on recommendation from the Pearson Report. In 2015 Thompson Unlimited disbanded, and thus the momentum to continue developing the industry dwindled.

The desire and ambition to rejuvenate the industry has recently emerged through collaboration with several community stakeholders and championed by the Thompson Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce established a winter weather testing committee to reinvigorate the local testing industry. CRED's funding last year for PHASE ONE, allowed the Thompson Chamber to set up a new website, print new promotional material and form a new non-profit, non-share capital corporation, Sub Zero North, Inc. that can now continue to grow and expand the industry and compete with four other test centres in North America. Phase II will stimulate the industry to regain its momentum to become the best world-wide winter weather testing site through development of both a professional organization and the necessary infrastructure to support it.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

89: One North – Business Plan Development (\$35,000)

The Hudson Bay Railway (HBR) and the Port of Churchill were recently purchased by a consortium of 50 percent ownership of Fairfax Financial and 50 percent ownership of OneNorth. The consortium is named Arctic Gateway Group (AGG). It is viewed that the movement of grain through the Port of Churchill is critical to the Port's long-term economic sustainability, which will also provide employment opportunities for area residents.

One North proposes to develop a business plan that will outline a comprehensive business case to support investment in the OneNorth Grain Transload Facility located on the south side of The Pas, Manitoba. The business plan will: Provide analysis of grain available, including historical and future projections of existing agriculture markets; Identify opportunities for exporting grain to international markets; Identify job creation; Recommend a potential new generation co-operative structure for the venture that includes farmers and Indigenous communities; Actively build on key relationships among industry partners.

STATUS: APPROVED, IN PROGRESS

90: Project Nunavut – Kivalliq-Churchill-Winnipeg Fresh Food Corridor (\$39,864.93)

Lake to Plate is a project that empowers Inuit fishermen from Nunavut to sell whole, unprocessed Arctic char to food businesses across Canada. The project was started in 2019 by Project Nunavut Ltd. (Project Nunavut) and a group of Inuit fishermen from Nunavut's Kivalliq region.

A number of barriers have prevented Inuit fishermen from making a sustainable income from fishing. These include: saturated in-territory demand for Arctic char; low prices offered to fishermen by in-territory buyers; challenges connecting with buyers outside of Nunavut; lack of supply chains to large, lucrative markets; small quotas assigned to remote lakes; uncertain harvest volumes; and difficulties achieving compliance with Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regulations. Lake to Plate addresses these challenges by providing Inuit fishermen with marketing, networking, regulatory, financial, and logistical support. The overarching goal of the project is to help Inuit fishermen secure fair prices for their Arctic char and, thereby, enable them to make a sustainable income off of the land for themselves, their families, and their communities.

This new project, Lake to Plate: Kivalliq-Churchill-Winnipeg Fresh Food Corridor, will allow project Nunavut to study the feasibility of creating a trade corridor for Arctic char and, potentially, other fresh foods connecting Churchill with Nunavut's Kivalliq region and with Winnipeg. It will lay the groundwork for the formalization of trade relationships that could have significant economic and social benefits for Churchill, the Kivalliq region, and Winnipeg, including: increased revenues for food businesses in Churchill as a result of access to high-quality, in-demand, and culturally-appropriate fresh foods; increased sales for Lake to Plate fishermen as a result of partnerships with food businesses in Churchill and Winnipeg; and increased access by Inuit and other Indigenous residents of Churchill and Winnipeg to fresh, healthy, and culturally appropriate foods.

STATUS: APPROVED, EARLY STAGES

91: One House Many Nations – Sustainable Housing Development (\$97,000)

One House, Many Nations (OHMN) and Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN) have developed an innovative community-led approach to address the housing crisis in First Nation and Northern and rural communities. Over the last three years, the OHMN team members (who include researchers, architects, designers, and engineers) and OCN leadership and community members have collaboratively designed and built prototypes for environmentally and economically sustainable homes (the first of which is occupied by a formerly homeless couple), and an off-grid mobile sanitation and service hub (The Muskrat Hut) to support community members' harvesting and other land-based activities. The partners have also completed the preliminary design and costing for a "Universal Utility Core" that can be 'plugged into" the homes. The super-insulated core contains all connections to electrical, sewer, and water services, heating and ventilation systems and a hot water tank, increases energy efficiency, and can support both detached and multi-family housing units. OCN has received funding, through a federal Innovation grant, to support further development of the utility core and explore its potential as a commercial product.

Building on its proven success, OHMN and OCN's collaborative community-led design/build process has drawn considerable interest from other First Nations and Northern communities. OHMN recently teamed with Garden Hill First Nation (MB) for community-led housing design activities. In 2020, with support from a federal Making the Shift grant, OHMN, in new collaborations with teams in Brokenhead Ojibway Nation (MB), Big River First Nation (SK), and Yellowknife, as well as its continuing collaboration with OCN, has initiated projects in each community (using the OHMN model) to develop environmentally and economically sustainable homes for youth and other community members experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

In this Project, the OHMN team is seeking funding to support planning, coordination and management of the broad range of activities in which it and its partners are involved. This will include a community business plan to explore designing, manufacturing and distributing/selling these energy efficient utility cores and other sustainable housing products.

STATUS: APPROVED, EARLY STAGES

92: Town of Churchill – AIRPort Phase II (\$75,000)

Various factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have highlighted that Churchill continues to play an important role to play in arctic resupply, and that the Churchill Airport is critical to ensuring a cost efficient, reliable and low carbon future for distribution in the region. Building capacity at the airport also provides new opportunities for year-round volumes on the railway, significantly enhancing its overall viability.

Following the completion of the Phase 1 Study funded under the CRED program (Town of Churchill Airport Usage Assessment), the Town of Churchill has been continuing work to build on the foundation established by the Phase 1 Study. Stakeholder engagement has determined a need for an innovative solution that will address current and future demands of the region through the Churchill Airport: "AIRPort". This Phase 2 proposal will focus on building on the work completed in the Phase 1 study and will include the necessary due-diligence undertakings that refine the vision including order of magnitude costing.

STATUS: APPROVED, EARLY STAGES