



**INDIGENOUS
ECONOMIC
PATHWAYS**



Meet the IEP Board

Guided by deep experience and shared values, our Board leads IEP in building Indigenous economic strength through sovereignty, partnership, and action.



Robert Dennis Sr.



Ken Watts



Reg Ogen



Trevor Cootes



Katrin Harry
(Treasurer)



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Our Vision, Mission & Focus



Our Vision

A future where First Nations lead sustainable, community-centered economies rooted in Indigenous values and collective well-being.



Our Mission

To advance Indigenous-led economic reconciliation by supporting First Nations communities, development corporations, and entrepreneurs through impactful events and initiatives.



Our Objectives

Create high-impact, Indigenous-led events that connect First Nations, businesses, and partners. Deliver impactful initiatives and programs that support entrepreneurs and Nation-driven development.



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Why We're Here

Building Indigenous Economic Resilience

Motivate

Inspire Indigenous leadership and innovation rooted in community values and sovereignty.

Uplift

Advance economic opportunities that strengthen Nations and support generational well-being.

Break Barriers

Challenge systemic obstacles—access to capital, policy exclusion, and structural inequities—through Indigenous-led action.



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The Opportunity

Ancient Spirit Modern Mind

Strong policy discussions already exist.

Major economic infrastructure gaps remain.

Nations need pathways to participate fully in the economy.

Time to move from dialogue → implementation



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Rebuilding Indigenous Trade Pathways

- Indigenous trade networks existed long before contact
- Today's systems are fragmented
- Opportunity to reconnect Nations through partnerships, supply chains, and shared economies



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Indigenous-Led Not-for-Profit

- Indigenous-led platform
- Connects Nations, industry, investors, and governments
- Supports partnerships, projects, and economic development initiatives
- Creates spaces for collaboration and implementation



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IFC

Indigenous Forestry Conference

- IEP's flagship gathering
- Bringing Nations and industry together
- Focused on practical collaboration, forestry transformation, and Indigenous-led economic development
- Expanding from 4 to 7 events this year



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From Resource Extraction to Community Outcomes

- “Why aren’t we building our homes from our own wood?”
- Forestry must connect to housing, manufacturing, and local economies
- Indigenous communities should participate across the full value chain
- Economic development must align with stewardship and Nation priorities



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Integrated Indigenous Economies

Forestry
Housing & construction
Manufacturing
Clean energy

Indigenous-owned businesses and trade networks

**Goal: build resilient Indigenous-led economies connected
across sectors.**



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Moving Forward Together

- Strengthen Indigenous-led partnerships
- Share practices and knowledge across Nations
- Build real economic pathways and infrastructure
- Create long-term, sustainable outcomes for future generations
- Economic reconciliation requires implementation, not just conversation.