



Indigenous Procurement Priority

***National Indigenous Economic Development Board (NIEDB):
DFO-CCG Indigenous Procurement Policy Dialogue;
Indigenous Capacity, Expertise and Gaps***

***NIEDB Sub-Committee on Indigenous Procurement:
Victoria LaBillois and Danielle Levine***

December 7th, 2020



Overview

1. The National Indigenous Economic Development Board
2. Recent work on Indigenous Procurement
3. Procurement Recommendations
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National Indigenous Economic Development Board

- **Victoria LaBillois:** a Mi'gmaq entrepreneur from Listuguj, Quebec, Victoria owns *Wejipeg Excavation*; owns rental properties; co-owns *Wejuseg Construction* and is an active partner in other joint ventures. A NIEDB board member since 2019, Victoria is also the recent recipient of the *Women's Executive Network 2020 Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Award Winner* for a second consecutive year.
- **Danielle Levine BA, MBA:** is a Métis business educator, program designer and facilitator originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Danielle is an independent consultant that provides skill development, coaching, and ongoing support in entrepreneurship for Indigenous Peoples in Canada and beyond. Danielle is one the NIEDB's newest members who joined the Board in 2020.



National Indigenous Economic Development Board

- Established in 1990, the NIEDB is a national, non-partisan body appointed by the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). Our Board is composed of First Nation, Metis and Inuit members from across Canada.
- **Mandate:** To advise the federal government on Indigenous economic development issues.
- **Vision:** Economic equality between Indigenous people in Canada and other Canadians.



National Indigenous Economic Development Board

The NIEDB:

- Provides advice to federal departments and agencies whose mandate and responsibilities aim to promote Indigenous economic and labour market participation.
- Publishes reports in areas, such as: Indigenous participation; economic benchmarking; financial readiness; infrastructure; and economic reconciliation.



Recent Work on Indigenous Procurement

- For more than two decades now, the NIEDB has been calling for a strengthened procurement strategy in order to ensure more fair and equitable participation by Indigenous businesses and employees.
- On June 25, 2020, the NIEDB sent a letter to the Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), outlining the importance of the Indigenous procurement modernization process and to offer advice through five recommendations. We have yet to receive a response.
- The following are the recommendations that have been put forward to the Government of Canada regarding the implementation of Indigenous procurement in Canada:



Procurement Recommendations

- 1. Mandatory set asides of 5% of federal contracts, with no conditions:** the Board recommends a mandatory minimum set-aside of 5% for Indigenous procurement within each federal department and agency, accompanied with explicit financial and non-financial penalties;
- 2. Establish strong awareness of program, address behavioral biases:** the Board recommends that the government create a comprehensive and user friendly directory of Indigenous businesses. The Board further recommends the directory be established and maintained by an Indigenous supplier through an external request for proposal.



Procurement Recommendations

- 3. Simplify processes and reduce barriers:** The current system is unnecessarily complex and bureaucratic from both the perspective of procurement officers and Indigenous suppliers. Ex) Bonds
- 4. Weight bids according to Indigenous concept of value:** The definition of value needs to be broader than classic western economic concepts. It needs to encompass factors such as socioeconomic benefits and reinvestments potential in Indigenous communities (e.g., building skills and capacity, positive spillover effect into other local businesses, recognition and utilization of traditional Indigenous knowledge), as well as cultural and environmental benefits.



Procurement Recommendations

- 5. Awareness and weight for local Indigenous businesses:** The Board strongly believes that measures to promote local Indigenous firms must start with better dissemination of information across federal departments and agencies, including all regional offices and regional economic development agencies. In addition, bids from local Indigenous firms should receive additional weight.



Questions

For more information on the Board and to read our Reports:

[NIEDB - CNDEA - \(naedb-cndea.com\)](http://naedb-cndea.com)

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