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BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

Artwork by Robert Solomon

# The Winds of Change: Economic Relationships between First Nations and Industry

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# Introduction

- Residential Schools apology occurred on June 11, 2008.
- The prime-minister spoke of the steps being taken to forge:

*“a new relationship between Aboriginal peoples and other Canadians, a relationship based on the knowledge of our shared history, a respect for each other and a desire to move forward together with a renewed understanding.”*



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# Introduction

- What does a relationship based on the knowledge of our shared history look like?
- What does a relationship based on a respect for each other look like?
- What does a relationship based on a desire to move forward together with a renewed understanding look like?



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# Introduction

- Acden:
  - The only LEED Gold compliant structure in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
  - Started in 1994, Acden is now the largest employer in the oil sands support services



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# Development that incorporates knowledge of a shared history



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# Knowledge of a Shared History

- Globalization the dominant economic theory for the last 20 years.
- Production and consumption separated by tens of thousands of kilometres.
- The reach of modern multinational resource companies is breathtaking.



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# Knowledge of a Shared History

- There are local effects of supplying the rest of the world with energy.
- Local effects are always intertwined with history.
- Knowledge of a shared history recruits the treaty relationship into this vision of reconciliation.



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# Development based on a foundation of respect



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# Foundation of Respect

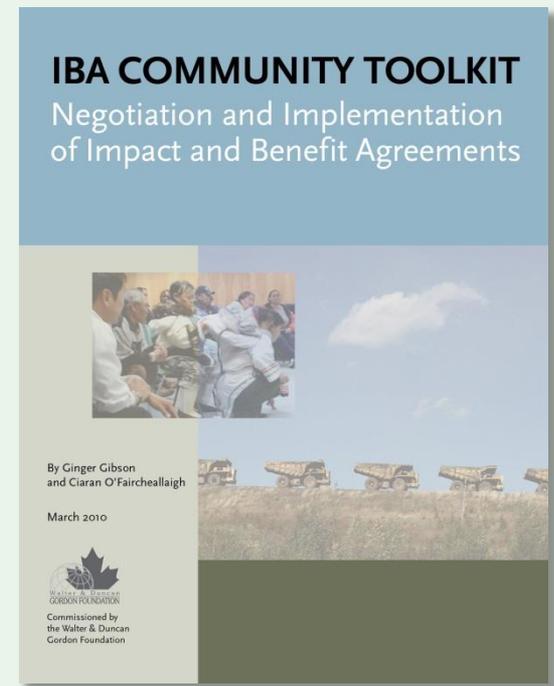
- Respect appreciates the competing needs that complete the whole.
- Where one need begins to crowd out the others in importance, respect is diminished.
- An impact benefit agreement between a First Nation community and a developer allows local needs to be inserted into the development process now.



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# Foundation of Respect

- IBAs provide a spectrum of benefits in return for approval that a development may proceed.
- Components:
  - Revenue Sharing
  - Project Ownership
  - Employment, Training, and Business Opportunities
  - Environmental Protection



**Development based on a  
desire to move forward  
together with a renewed  
understanding**



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# Renewed understanding

- In 2009, Ontario rolled out the *Green Energy Act*.
- Goal was to mark a clear transition away from fossil fuel consumption.
- Inducements to enter the market and partner with First Nation communities.



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# Renewed understanding

- Aboriginal Loan Guarantee Program.
- Government guarantee dramatically lowers the cost of borrowing money to buy into a Project.
- Assures that the First Nation remains cash positive as a result of participating in a project.



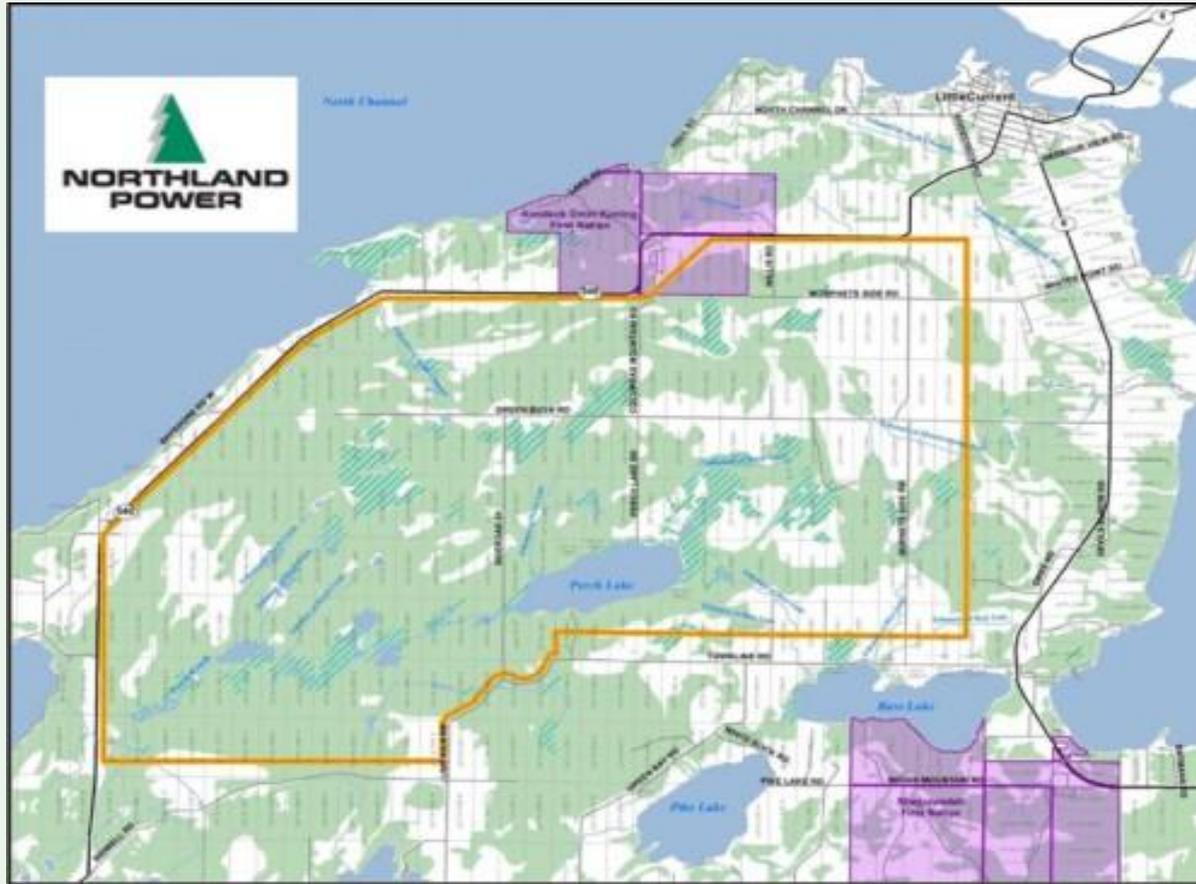
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# Renewed understanding

- McLean's Mountain Wind Farm:
  - 50/50 equity partnership between Northland Power and United Chiefs and Councils of Mniidoo Mnising.
  - 24 GE Wind Turbines with a total capacity of 60 MW.
  - Electricity generated from the wind turbines is injected into the provincial electricity grid



# Renewed understanding



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# Conclusion

- 40 years ago, the oil sands were considered an uneconomic dream with no likelihood of being developed.
- Where will we be 40 years from now?



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