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BRITISH  
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ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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## BACKGROUND

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Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
BC Assembly of First Nations

### **BCAFN economic strategy will build on existing success**

What follows is a snapshot of past successes of the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) Sustainable Economic Development and Fiscal Relations Strategy, which supports future planning:

#### **First Nations Business and Governance Forums:**

BCAFN hosted its two-day Business Forum in Lheidli T'enneh Territory in February 2019. More than 150 participants heard from a variety of panels on experiences and best practices. As well, keynote speakers included Alan Winter, B.C.'s innovation commissioner; and Gitksan member Bill Lomax, vice-president of Goldman Sachs Investment Management Division. In 2019-21, the BCAFN will work with partners to organize four First Nations business and governance forums to showcase the latest information for First Nations on economic development and governance initiatives.

#### **Develop discussion papers and draft policies:**

BCAFN will work with partners to prepare discussion papers regarding the linkages between governance and economic development, including identifying the legal and regulatory barriers that inhibit and/or support investment. First Nations have identified a gap in policies related to economic development, investment practices and business/financial operations. The BCAFN will work with First Nations in B.C. to create relevant economic development policies that support this need.

#### **Engagement and Partnership Building with Government and Industry:**

BCAFN will seek to renew its relationship with the Business Council of BC (BCBC). Many positive outcomes have been created from this relationship, including the Champions Table (made up of 11 Chiefs and 11 CEOs), the Indigenous Internship Initiative and pilot projects with First Nations. The BCAFN will also include B.C. in some of the BCBC discussions to identify policies and approaches that are needed to improve opportunities for economic reconciliation with First Nations.

#### **Black Books updates and implementation support in the regions:**

BCAFN has created a guide for First Nations interested in improving their economic development strategies and operations. First Nations have asked for technical and political support from BCAFN for specific projects and initiatives related to economic development. Black Books updates will include the latest best practices and information to support First Nations specific projects, highlighting provincial programs, services and initiatives.

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