

RECONCILIATION

ISSUE

ABORIGINAL
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"We were featured in the winter issue of Aboriginal Business Quarterly, within a couple of days, the LinkedIn post hit 3000 views, and the Facebook post hit 3477 views."

Paul Gruner
CEO Det'on Cho Corporation.

THE BUSINESS OF RECONCILIATION

In the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 2015 Calls to Action, Item 92 was the only one directed specifically at corporate Canada as a whole. It called upon the business sector to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources. This would include, among other things, committing to meaningful consultation, ensuring equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities, and educating management and staff on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools. Five years on we look at how companies have reacted to this call and what actions it's spurred, including the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business' Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program. PAR companies range from large public corporations to small Aboriginal businesses across all industries. What they share is that they are good business partners, great places to work and a commitment to building prosperity in Aboriginal communities.

RIGHT FROM DAY 1

Cheetah Resources' recent activation of the Nechalacho Project through its agreement with Avalon Advanced Materials has meant new energy in the NWT mining sector and new opportunities for many service providers. It's clear Cheetah has made Aboriginal procurement a key part of its operational plan from the start and one of the big winners so far is Det'on Cho. *Aboriginal Business Quarterly* takes a look at how this relationship is evolving and how other Aboriginal-owned companies may soon be reaping rewards, too.

Q&A WITH NUNAVUT ED&T MINISTER **DAVID AKEEAGOK**

Nunavut is chugging along with producing mines in each region and funding to get a couple of massive infrastructure projects shovel-ready. David Akeeagok, who was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in October 2017, serves as the territory's Deputy Premier, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister responsible for Mines, Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, and Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation. We'll go one-on-one with the Minister to find out where the territory is heading next.

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