

About Us



The Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC) is the primary economic development agency in the city dedicated to fostering local growth. Leveraging its local expertise, the CEDC actively promotes Thunder Bay as an ideal Canadian small city for living, working, business, and tourism.

With a focus on business growth, the CEDC's dedicated team and sector experts swiftly seize emerging prospects to draw in visitors, talent, jobs, business, and investments to Thunder Bay.

Lessons Learned

Partnering with other Indigenous organizations through development and implementation of the program has been very valuable. Maintaining these relationships make it easier each time we deliver the program.

Partner Organization

Impala Canada has financially supported the Miinikaanan Badakidoon program for the last two cohorts.

Learn More

Check out the program website at <https://gotothunderbay.ca/how-we-help/entrepreneur-centre/miinikaanan-badakidoon/>

FEATURED PROGRAM

The Miinikaanan Badakidoon program

Launched in December 2021, the Miinikaanan Badakidoon program offers Indigenous entrepreneurs in Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario a chance to secure a \$5,000 grant. The initiative supports individuals seeking to initiate, expand, or acquire a business by providing them access to business training, assistance in crafting business plans, and mentorship opportunities.

The program was implemented to further support Indigenous entrepreneurs in our region that are looking to start-up or develop their business. The program has successfully supported 9 Indigenous businesses, creating 14 jobs and leveraging approximately \$600,000 in other sources of funding.

Challenges

Indigenous businesses may have different partnership and funding opportunities available to access. Providing a program that can directly share that information with the businesses will strengthen their business further. Initially, branding of the program to be recognizable from our other programming was a challenge. The CEDC partnered with a local Indigenous-led marketing agency to assist with consulting elders to develop the program brand and implementation. As well, we consulted with many Indigenous organizations in Thunder Bay and the region to learn best practices for launching a program of this type.

