



ULNOOWEG
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES
FOUNDATION



UlnoowegFoundation.ca

The background features two large, circular dreamcatchers with intricate web patterns. A white eagle is shown in flight, positioned between the two dreamcatchers. The entire scene is set against a warm, golden-brown gradient background.

First Nations & Philanthropy

Christopher Googoo

Executive Director

The Ulnooweg Indigenous Communities Foundation

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Three Themes

- The needs and opportunities to strengthen the connections between Indigenous communities and the philanthropic sector
- “Qualified donee” status
- Opportunities for new charitable infrastructure in Indigenous communities



The Needs

The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada begins its 2012 paper *Aboriginal Philanthropy: A Foundation for Understanding* with this observation:

“Aboriginal’ and ‘philanthropy’ are not words that come together often in Canada – and we want to change that.”

<http://www.philanthropyandaboriginalpeoples.ca/wp-content/uploads/AboriginalPhilanthropyInCanada.pdf>



The Needs

- A 2017 analysis by The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada concluded that approximately 1% of registered charities in Canada are “indigenous-focused” – have purposes that include serving Indigenous people (approx. 5% of the population).

http://www.philanthropyandaboriginalpeoples.ca/wp-content/uploads/Manitoba-Indigenous-Report_RV_WEB_Sep18.pdf

- More analysis is needed.



The Opportunities

- Leadership, talent, energy
- Demographics
- Entrepreneurial success
- Own source revenues from community enterprise
- Sectoral successes – for example, Atlantic fisheries post *Marshall* decisions
- Reconciliation



Why Philanthropy?

- It is an innovative, creative sector dedicated to public benefit
- Potential opportunities for new collaborations and dramatic impact on countless fronts
- Charities can be catalysts for community development
- Grants, investments, services, advocacy
- The connection between philanthropy and Aboriginal communities is ready to grow



The scale of Philanthropy in Canada

- 84,500 registered charities
- Approximately \$16.5 billion in receipted donations and \$6 billion in unreceipted gift and fundraising revenue annually.
- \$7.9 billion in grants from charities
- \$61 billion in foundation resources
- 8% to 10% of Canada's gross national product
- International interest - \$2.3 billion received from outside Canada



“Qualified Donees”

- Defined in the *Income Tax Act*
- Organizations that:
 - a) can issue tax receipts to donors;
 - b) can receive grants from registered charities;
 - c) are exempt from income tax.



Qualified Donees – Nine Types

- Registered charities are one category of qualified donee.
- Listed municipal or public bodies performing a function of government in Canada are another category.
- Bands councils and other Indigenous government bodies can become qualified donees.
- In order to be recognized as a qualified donee, organizations must apply to the Canada Revenue Agency and get on their list:
<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/qlfd-dns/qd-lstngs/mncplpblcbds-lst-eng.html>



The List

- As of February 23, 2019 there are 417 organizations on the list.
 - Approximately 390 are Indigenous organizations.
- There are 634 First Nations in Canada.
- 22 of 34 Mi'kmaq and Maliseet communities in Atlantic Canada and two Tribal Council organizations are on the list.



Getting on the Qualified Donee List

- CRA guidance: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/qlfd-dns/mncplpblcbds-eng.html>
- An application to CRA is required
- Not the same as an application to register as a charity
- Once on the List, qualified donees are not regulated like charities



Once on the List

- Can issue tax receipts for donations just like a charity
- Must meet the receipting requirements and keep records to confirm gifts received
- Not regulated by CRA like other charities – more flexibility – no extra reporting
- May grant to non-qualified donees – for example non-profit organizations
- Political & business activities not impeded



Potential for New Charitable Infrastructure

- There are opportunities for new Indigenous charities of all kinds in Indigenous communities.
- Local, regional, national
- Potential for smart design, synergies and efficiencies.
- Impact investment.



Examples of New Charities

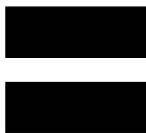
Abegweit Conservation Society

Ulnooweg Financial Education Centre

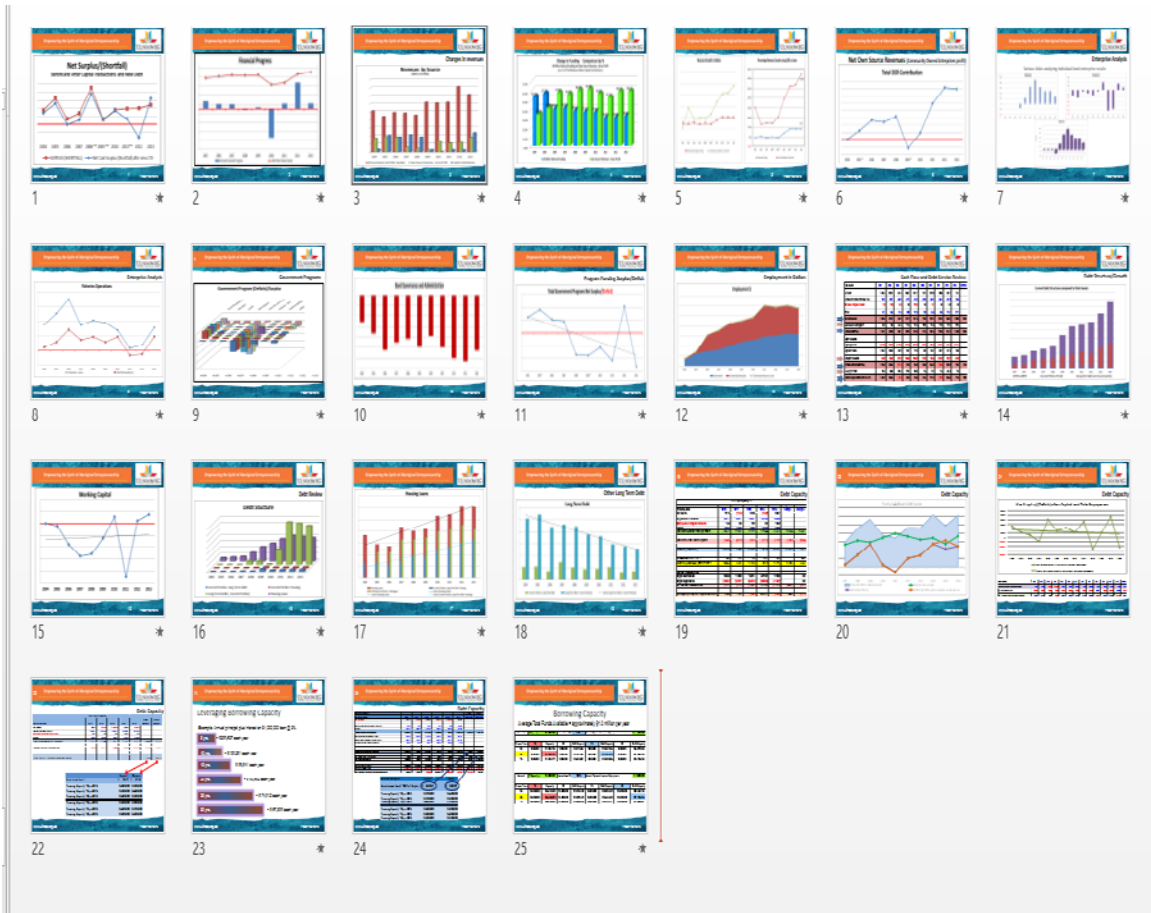
The Ulnooweg Indigenous Communities Foundation



Turn this:



Into this:



Community Financial Review – Benefits

- ✎ Translates large amounts of complex data into graph form, making it easier to visualize and understand
- ✎ Leads to a clearer understanding of current financial situation
- ✎ Provides a tool that can be used to help make informed investment and borrowing decisions
- ✎ Allows for a better sense of the relative value of financing options
- ✎ Contributes to increased financial understanding
- ✎ Provides documented evidence to illustrate growth and financial position to interested parties

Digital Mi'kmaq

- Ground breaking new initiative led by Ulnooweg that aims to bridge the digital divide faced by Indigenous children
- STEM focused educational programs
- Robotics, Big Data, to Computer Science to Artificial Intelligence.
- 8,000 Indigenous students across Nova Scotia on and off reserve.

<https://youtu.be/G3mVRTqL7EM>



Looking ahead

- All Bands & other Indigenous government bodies as qualified donees.
- More successful Indigenous charities of all kinds.
- Stronger connections between the broader philanthropic community & First Nations – impact grant-making, impact investment & partnerships





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