

HELEN BOBIWASH



FCPA, CMA, CAFM - Sudbury, Ontario

Challenge is no stopper for Helen Bobiwash, independent accountant, mother and community-builder.

If anything, she says, it has made her more compassionate.

Helen has challenged the boundaries of life-long learning. Beginning her career in accounting, Helen has expanded her knowledge into policy development, research, strategic planning, and emergency preparedness planning. As a result, she has been able to help build capacity within Indigenous communities. Her most meaningful reward, she says, is feeling that she can help make a difference.

Spanning a long career of helping communities, Helen reflects on another learning point in her life. Mentioning past finance roles in various organizations, it was when health organizations started requesting her services that she looked at things in a new way. "They need financial advice as much as anyone else. That broadened my perspective. It became more than finances and economic development - you can't have productive communities without health."

Based on the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation near Sudbury, Ontario, Helen has been working directly with First Nations and Indigenous not-for-profit organizations

for 25 years. As well as supporting all the aspects of community building, she has developed workshop content on Indigenous financial capability. She also completed research on Indigenous financial capacity, tax filing and Indigenous women entrepreneurship. This research is being used to improve the delivery of services to Indigenous people. She was recently recognized by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario as a Fellow (FCPA) for her outstanding career and exceptional leadership in both business and Indigenous communities.

But, really, she says, she likes to be a bridge - from information to people. This may include coaching on how to read financial reports, how to analyze and determine what may need to change, or what questions need to be asked.

Her Anishinaabe name translates to "She Who Mends Broken Paths." She continues to search for ways to mend paths and build those bridges. A natural leader and educator, Helen humbly describes herself as having "only scratched the surface" in her knowledge and learning.

A portrait of Helen Bobiwash, a woman with dark hair, wearing a dark blazer over a red top, smiling. The background is a warm, bokeh-style image of what appears to be a plant with small white flowers.

“ IF YOU ARE STILL LEARNING,
BE GRATEFUL. YOU CAN
ACHIEVE ANYTHING.”



Indigenous Women Entrepreneurs #ResilientWomen #IndigenousProsperity