

**2006 INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER
GARY SWITE, KELOWNA, BC**



Gary Swite, a Board Member of All Nations Trust Company in British Columbia, won the Individual Award. Whitecap Dakota First Nation represented by Chief Darcy Bear was awarded in the Business/Community category.

Gary Swite from Kelowna, British Columbia, was recognized for his unprecedented efforts in developing numerous successful business ventures as well as for his ongoing mentorship of Aboriginal youth involved in community economic development. Gary promotes Aboriginal employment in his business by employing youth from his community, and is dedicated to providing valuable training and skills development through mentoring youth and other going into business. Gary feels that the major impacts his business partnerships have had are “providing employment...[by taking] away from working for those home-based jobs to working in the city. They gain a broader experience by working in what [Gary calls] the ‘real world.’” Gary’s words of wisdom include these insightful guidelines: “If you want to do it... you [must have] courage, [put in] the effort, and [have] goals...I don’t do anything unless I set a goal...put a strategy in place and...proceed to the next step.” Gary’s personal long-term goals include using his experience, skills, and challenges to “help other communities within [his] area or individuals that have an interest, like a mentorship... [to] get something going.” Congratulations, Gary, on being the 2006 Individual Economic Developer of the Year Winner, and best of luck to you in the future!