

2016 INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

Rob Crow, Blood Tribe Economic Development, AB



As a member of the Blood Tribe located in Southern Alberta, Rob Crow currently is the Director of Economic Development for the Blood Tribe and has been employed by them for over 19 years. Well-educated with a Bachelor of Management Degree as well as a Masters of Science in Management, Rob is a role model in his community and has completed outstanding work.

Rob has served on several Provincial and National boards including Cando (Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers) for 3 consecutive terms and most recently as the co-chair of AANDC (Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada). He also received his Professional Aboriginal Economic Developer (PAED) certification in 2007 from Cando.

Currently, Rob's major projects have been the Blood Tribe Land Designation referendum along with the Kanai Marketplace Grocery Store. As the lead on these projects, he took care of strategic planning, leakage studies, feasibility studies and successfully received buy-in from the Blood Tribe community to get these projects into motion.

The Kanai Marketplace Grocery store is a new, 12,000 square foot, multi-million dollar commercial project on the Blood Reserve. It just recently opened in Fall 2016 and aims to bring affordable, fresh, healthy food products to on-reserve residents. The store is supplied by The Grocery People, the same supplier of Coop grocery stores in southern Alberta.

Kanai Marketplace was built with the help of local construction workers and will employ 20 people, generating income, creating employment opportunities and training, and improving the standard of living for community members of the Blood Tribe.

Although Rob faced some funding issues with the project, his wisdom and diplomacy served him well and he was able to keep the project on track. Kanai Marketplace will service the largest land base reserve in Canada as well as the on-reserve population of 10,000 plus residents. The Blood Tribe are neighbours with the Piikani First Nation and the Townships of Fort Macleod, Cardston and Magrath. This marketplace is closer to these communities than the closest city of Lethbridge, Alberta, and will be of great use to these surrounding nations.

Rob Crow is a deserving individual and has demonstrated his passion for economic development and Indigenous lands management. Rob is an asset to his community and without him, his team and the hard work they do, the Kanai Marketplace simply would not exist.