

STATE – TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**Background:**

Established in 1999, the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission (STEDC) pursues expansion of economic development opportunities for each of the eight Indian Nations in Montana in partnership with tribal governments and the federal government. **It is important that the STEDC work continues and the recommendations of the commission are supported.**

The State-Tribal Economic Development Commission (STEDC) is a 10 member board that meets every two months. Current members of the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission are:

- ❖ Jonathan Windy Boy and alternate Raymond Parker of the Chippewa Cree,
- ❖ L. Jace Killsback of the Northern Cheyenne,
- ❖ Joseph Durglo and alternate Lloyd Irvine of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai,
- ❖ Shawn Real Bird of the Apsaalooke,
- ❖ James Parker Shield and alternate Ken Erickson of the Little Shell Tribe of the Chippewa Indians,
- ❖ Emorie Davis-Bird and alternate Roger "Sassy" Running Crane of the Blackfeet,
- ❖ Caroline Brown of the Assiniboine Gros Ventre,
- ❖ Noel Sansaver of the Assiniboine Sioux,
- ❖ Andy Poole of the Department of Commerce,
- ❖ Reno Charette of the Office of Indian Affairs
- ❖ and Major Robinson, of the Office of Economic Development has actively participated as an ex officio member

State-Tribal Economic Development commission Goals and Objectives:

GOALS	ACHIEVEMENTS	STATUS
Lending and borrowing issues on trust lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsorship of the 2006 Indian Business Conference • Supported Crow adoption of Secured Transaction Code • Video taped Conference proceeding for use at ongoing trainings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done • Done • Done
Improve cooperation and coordination between the State of Montana and Indian Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended written notification in advance of the Office of Economic Opportunity visits and utilized STEDC members as local point of contact for state government representatives visiting tribal nations • Post Economic Development opportunities on website • Recommended the Governors Office of Economic Opportunity to draft new Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with each Tribal Nation <p>STEDC meetings are a venue for tribally owned and private business presentations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Ongoing • In process
Information on incentives of doing business in Indian Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request the Department of Revenue to provide a report on the incentives available to businesses located on Montana Indian Reservations • Work with Congressional delegation to identify federal incentives available to companies choosing to locate in Indian Country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In process • In process

GOALS	ACHIEVEMENTS	STATUS
Business Flow Chart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a flow chart showing steps needed for successful business formation on Indian reservations and by tribally owned enterprises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In process
Develop and disseminate information on the economic and demographic situation on Montana's Indian Reservations	<p>Contracted Economic Analysis Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2007: Monetary Contributions of Reservations to the State of Montana – Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Montana. • 2006: Economic Fliers – Department of Labor • 2001: Montana Reservation Assessment –RJS & Associates, Inc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done • Done • Done
Provide recommendations to the Montana Department of Commerce on the investment of Indian Country Economic Development (ICED) funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding awarded for priority economic development projects for each of the eight Indian Nations • Offered the opportunity to contract with the Department of Commerce for Entrepreneurship training during the current year. • Joined the Montana Economic Developers Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done • Ongoing • Done
Develop a website to promote goals and purpose of STEDC www.tribal.mt.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created a website available to the public • Updating and adding viable links relevant to economic development • Addition of photo gallery • Featured artist link Chris Rowland www.chrisrowlandart.com 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done • Ongoing • In process • Done
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive and respond to inquiries from the public regarding issues of importance in Indian Country about economic development • Research and disseminate information on economic development opportunities to Montana's Indian community • Assist Tribal Governments and businesses with support for federal grant applications to the State and Federal Governments • Subscribed to the Federal Assistance Monitor-CD Publications providing tribes with information on Federal Grant opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Ongoing • Ongoing • Done

Funding:

Economic Development

Reservations have the highest unemployment rates in Montana. The State-Tribal Economic Development Commission, working with the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the Office of Indian Affairs, coordinates the State's efforts in working with Tribal governments to reverse unemployment trends, inject capital, expertise, and opportunity into reservation economies. These initiatives are directed at

- (1) workforce training and innovation,
- (2) business development,
- (3) gaming,
- (4) tribal infrastructure development, and
- (5) tribal tourism development.

2006 Labor Day Report

The 13th Annual Report embodied the diversity of Montana's economy by accounting for all peoples of Montana. The Department of Labor and Industry Research and Analysis Bureau Chief Economist Brad Eldredge, Economist Tyler Turner, and Director Keith Kelly presented an overview of the Montana Economy, **including for the first time** Reservation Economic Data, and Wage Distributions.

Reservation Economic Fliers

The Department of Labor working with the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission, the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity and the Department of Commerce, released reservation-specific flyers on tribal economies. Six reservations have already participated in the production of these flyers in 2006. Accurate tribal economic information is critical if the State is to be effective in partnering with tribal governments to improve economic conditions on reservations.



Montana Indian Business Alliance

The Montana Indian Business Alliance is an outcome of the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission's sponsoring of the first-ever Montana Indian Business Conference, which was held in February of 2006. The Alliance is comprised of tribal organizations and governments, state government, non-profit organizations, tribal colleges, Indian owned businesses, lending institutions, consulting firms, consumer credit advocacy agencies, community development agencies, and federal agencies. To jumpstart Indian business development, the Alliance has begun assessing tribal financial and human resources, as well as tribal commercial codes and other information to centralize data and identify areas for strategic focus.

Montana Economic Developers Association

In the spring of 2006 State-Tribal Economic Development Commission members joined the Montana Economic Developers Association. The Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) advances the economic development profession, coordinates statewide certified economic development workshops, and acts as a clearinghouse within Montana for other state, regional, national and international economic development organizations and agencies.