



Ermineskin Cree Nation's Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies Inc. becomes the largest shareholder of First Nations Bank of Canada

Maskwacis, AB and Saskatoon, SK— April 11, 2022

First Nations Bank of Canada (FNBC) and Ermineskin Cree Nation's (ECN) proudly announce Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies Inc. (NGCI), ECN's economic development arm, investment in Indigenous economic self-determination and community prosperity. NGCI now owns 18% of FNBC, increasing the financial institution's Indigenous ownership to 87%.

"We are excited and most proud of this venture as it sets out to promote economic opportunity for Ermineskin Cree Nation. With this opportunity comes greater success for sustainability and growth," said Chief Randy Ermineskin.

ECN and their wholly owned economic development companies have a clear commitment and ambitious strategies to increase community benefits and long-term opportunities. This investment will support ECN's culture-based approach to building economic diversity and people development through economic participation, training, and employment.

FNBC will work closely with the Ermineskin Cree Nation and other Indigenous shareholders to expand their retail and commercial banking services for Indigenous communities, governments, businesses, organizations and individuals. The Bank provides shareholder value through growth in its capital value, the payment of dividends and a focus on providing Indigenous focused financial services to Indigenous markets across Canada.

"In 1996, the founders of First Nations Bank of Canada invested capital in creating a bank focused on serving Indigenous customers with the financial services, focus and respect they deserved from their financial institution. Twenty-five years later, FNBC is still attracting like-minded Indigenous shareholders who appreciate the services we offer and the value creation we deliver to our owners," said Keith Martell, President & CEO.

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About Ermineskin Cree Nation

Ermineskin Cree Nation /'ɜːrmɪn.skɪn/ also known as the **Ermineskin**

Tribe (Cree: ᓃᓴᓃᓴᓴᓴ, *neyâskweyâhk*), is a Cree First Nation government in Alberta, Canada. A signatory to Treaty 6, Ermineskin is one of the Four Nations of Maskwacis, Alberta's largest Indigenous community.

About Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies Inc.

NGCI was established in 2013 by ECN to surpass financial self-sufficiency and sustainability through long-term investments and business development. NGCI is incorporated under the Business Corporations Act of Alberta as “a company limited by shares” with specific objects, including, but not limited to, ‘transform the economic and social well-being of the members’ of our Nation. Ermineskin Cree Nation owns 100% shares of NGCI.

About First Nations Bank of Canada

FNBC is a Canadian chartered bank with over 87% Indigenous shareholders including groups from Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Yukon, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta and Quebec. FNBC is a leader in the provision of financial services to Indigenous People and an advocate for the growth of the Indigenous Economy and the economic well-being of Indigenous People.