

# Aboriginal Social Enterprise (ASE) Initiative

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# What is ASE?

- ▶ New Aboriginal social enterprise development program
- ▶ Start up phase with seed funding
- ▶ Hired Executive Director

# Vision

- ▶ Enhancing Prosperity in the Aboriginal Community Through Social Enterprise

# What will ASE do?

- ▶ Promote social enterprise and deliver inreach workshops (youth and opportunity identification)
- ▶ Select and nurture Aboriginal social enterprises with coaching, mentorship and incubation support
- ▶ Networking and marketplace development
- ▶ Develop a sustainable governance and financial platform, as an Aboriginal-led social enterprise itself, in perpetuity.

## What else is out there?

- ▶ There are many programs, funds and services for small business development in BC and in Canada
- ▶ There are some directly targeting Aboriginal Entrepreneurs
- ▶ There are none directed at supporting Aboriginal Social Enterprise

# Founding Principles

- ▶ Culturally based inreach into Aboriginal communities
- ▶ Focus on independence and being able to respond to community needs
- ▶ Focus on partnering
- ▶ For Aboriginal people by Aboriginal people

# Next Steps

- ▶ Business plan and refine programming
- ▶ Demonstration projects
- ▶ Does your community have high unemployment? Youth? Businesses?
- ▶ Are you interested in continuing the conversation?