

## Some of the Many Aboriginal Businesses in the Stó:lō Traditional Territory

There is currently estimated to be over 150 Aboriginal owned businesses in the Stó:lō Traditional Territory, a large area from the Fraser Canyons to the outskirts of Greater Vancouver, on both sides of the Fraser River, to the US Border. The businesses are generally, either community-owned by the local First Nation Band or Tribal Group, or are owned by individual Aboriginal entrepreneurs. They cover a diverse range of business categories. Aboriginal owned businesses are the most rapidly growing business sector in Canada, with the 2011 CCAB Study estimates having 5 times more Aboriginal business being proportionately created in the Aboriginal world, versus the non-Aboriginal business rate. Below are a few of the local Aboriginal businesses in the fast growing Stó:lō economy.



### **Bravo Restaurant & Lounge**



Louis De Jaeger with Minister Polak at the 2011 Aboriginal Business Awards.

Louis De Jaeger is Métis and the owner of Bravo Restaurant and Lounge, which is the previous winning recipient of the 2011 Outstanding Achievement BC Aboriginal Business of the Year Award; 3 time winner of the Dining Excellence Award – The Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce; and, 6 time winner of the Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival (Wine List Awards).

Bravo is a casually elegant cosmopolitan restaurant; with a top-quality innovative menu from the area we live (Pacific North-West Cuisine), in particular to harvesting foods and growing their own herbs to season the experience. Bravo's unique style is reflected in their ambience, service & menu, and is reinforced by a consistent attention to detail. Their customers enjoy the intimate yet social atmosphere and can relax knowing that they will be well taken care of.

### **Serenity Chiropractic**

Dr. Kara Bonnefoy is the owner of Serenity Chiropractic, which is a family wellness chiropractic office located in Chilliwack, B.C. They promote the chiropractic lifestyle by encouraging healthy living that includes good nutrition, exercise, and a properly functioning Nervous System.



Their belief is that a body free of nerve interference will be able to adapt accordingly to its environment, and will grow and develop optimally. It is essential to respect the body for the complex system that it is, and by having your entire family checked for nerve interference on a regular basis, you are giving them the gift of health that will last a lifetime!

### **Ringling Bell Robes**



Linda Kay Peters is the owner and designer for Ringling Bell Robes. Linda has been coordinating fashion shows since 1997 and is known for her distinctive vests, coats, and jackets for men, women and children. Her most recent designs include formal wear and traditional dance regalia. Some of Linda's designs are her own creations depicting her Ojibway/Cree heritage, and others are her interpretations of the Coast Salish/Stó:lō culture.

Linda was invited to take part in the 2013 New York Couture Fall Fashion Week, with only a handful of other Aboriginal designers from Canada. Her designs were widely received, and she had been invited back to future New York shows. She has been busy designing new items for the markets.

**Squiala First Nation / Eagle Landing Plaza**



Squiala First Nation has been progressively growing and expanding their economic development resources over the last few years. Most notably, they have created Eagle Landing which boasts many businesses such as Walmart, Galaxy Cinemas, Shell, Starbucks, and many others. Their beautiful new Community Hall facility has been hosting many community and regional events since it opened.

**Vedder Crossing Plaza – Tzeachten First Nation**

Vedder Crossing Plaza is owned by Tzeachten First Nation and is located on the Tzeachten lands in Sardis. This very popular retail destination has several retail businesses such as Save-on-Foods, RBC, Tim Hortons's, Booster Juice, and many more.



**Tzeachten First Nation – Housing Developments**



Tzeachten First Nation lands have several residential developments, including Halcyon Meadows, Promontory Lake Estates and several other residential developments, that house over 1,000 units.

**Kokopelli Produce and Deli – The Village at Sardis Park**

Kokopelli Produce opened in 2009 and has expanded its store size and services in 2012. The store now has a larger deli, grocery, dairy and bakery. Specifically, in the Deli; the staff make fresh sandwiches, salads and veggie trays every day. There is a 5% discount every day for status First Nations and seniors 55+ yrs.



**Skawahlook First Nation – Ruby Creek Art Gallery / You've Been Framed**



Skawahlook First Nation Ruby Creek Art Gallery has beautiful pictures, Aboriginal artwork, jewelry and more, all done by well known Aboriginal artists. You've Been Framed is a framing business that does customized framing including shadow boxes and more.

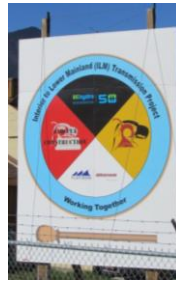


**Planet Earth – Tzeachten First Nation**

Planet Earth is a very popular local dining experience located on Tzeachten Lands and provides breakfast, lunch and coffee. Always busy, menu items include hot breakfast, muffins, scones, soup, sandwiches, pastries and more, all made daily. They also provide breakfast and lunch catering services to many meetings in the area.



**Seabird Island Band – Gas Bar / ILM Project**



The Seabird Island Gas Bar is owned by Seabird Island First Nation. It has a gas bar that is open to all and has a 24hr Cardlock. Seabird also has also a partnership with BC Hydro, Flatiron/Graham, and their own Company – Stoq:ya Construction, for a large work area to service the Interior to Lower Mainland (ILM) Transmission Project.

**Telte-Yet Campsite – Hope**

The campground itself was historically home of the local Stó:lō First Nation people and sits along the Fraser River with views of the majestic mountains. There are riverfront sites and double sites available. The campground experience includes fire pits, flush toilets, showers, free sani-station, an ice station, laundry facilities, payphone, and, a covered BBQ area. There are pull-through's available and have 24 hour security, is fully fenced with a main gated entrance. Pets are welcome to this long established Fraser River campground owned by the Chawathil First Nation.



**Sasquatch Crossing Eco Lodge**



Sts'ailes Indian Band purchased this historic property in the spring of 2009. Originally built as Fenn Lodge in 1903 as a private home, this 10,000 square foot gem was remodeled 15 years ago into their bed and breakfast facility. There are 9 rooms, library, living room with a fireplace, twenty-four seat dining hall, regulation size billiard table, large gourmet-style kitchen, and meeting rooms: available for a family, group event or business retreat.

**A.J. Towing**

A.J. Towing Inc. is a local towing company based out of Chilliwack that has been very successful for a number of years in helping those who need towing services.

In 2010 A.J. Towing was the recipient of the BC Aboriginal Business Award. Owners Douglas Siebert and Mary-Ann Jones-Siebert are shown accepting their award from Gordon Campbell, then Premier of British Columbia.

