



Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government

P.O. Box 98, Nemiah Valley, BC, V0L 1X0

Request for Qualification

Xeni Gwet'in Economic Development Strategy

Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government

Subject Matter of Request for Proposal: Xeni Gwet'in Economic Development Strategy

Issue date: Oct 13, 2020

Closing Date: Oct 16, 2020

Closing Time: 3:00 PM

Submit to: John Lerner jhnlerner@gmail.com

Subject line: XENI GWET'IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

1. Brief Description of Request

The Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government seeks to engage a qualified consultant to develop an economic development strategy for the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area in the Cariboo-Chilcotin.

2. Introduction to the Organization

The Xeni Gwet'in First Nation is one of the six communities of the Tsilhqot'in Nation and is the steward of the Tsilhqot'in Title Land, the only aboriginal title land in Canada, situated in the southwest Chilcotin and spanning roughly 1750 sqkm. This unique Title Land is surrounded by the Tsilhqot'in Rights Area and the larger Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area of roughly 4000 sqkm.

The Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government carries out the wishes of its citizens expressed through one Chief and two Councilors that represent their community and Nation. The programs carried out by the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government include administration, health, economic development, social welfare, public works and land management.

The Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area is one of a few intact forest ecosystems left in the Cariboo-Chilcotin comprised largely of pine, fir and spruce stands, divided by two large river systems and populated with numerous lakes. The area is supported by a relatively modest economy comprised of wilderness tourism, ranching, forestry, with most income coming into the Xeni Gwet'in community via government transfers.

The community has already undertaken considerable land use planning and some economic planning for the Caretaker Area. The economic planning has been largely focused on tourism development but additional planning has been undertaken on agriculture, aquaculture and forestry. Economic vision documents were also produced

in 2011 and more recently in 2018 and a comprehensive community plan was completed in 2014 but no comprehensive economic development plan has been completed for at least 20 years.

3. Organizational Values

The work of the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government is based upon traditional T̓silhqot'in beliefs and value systems – such as providing a sense of belonging and acceptance, sharing of information and resources, participation and inclusion in decision-making and respect for its individuals and families and respect for the health of the land. It is through strong, healthy families and a healthy land base that a strong Xeni Gwet'in community has been built.

The focus of the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government remains: to protect the land for future generations, to strengthen its cultural and spiritual base, to understand and live according to traditional values and beliefs and to develop a balance between prosperity and traditional well-being.

4. Project Summary

In order to foster greater prosperity for its members and its local community, the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government wishes to undertake an economic development strategy for the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area. The proposed economic development strategy would build on existing planning by Xeni Gwet'in and the T̓silhqot'in National Government and new economic trends to identify innovative opportunities for employment and revenue generation over the next 20.

5. Project Goals

The primary goal of the Xeni Gwet'in Economic Development Strategy is to confirm an economic vision for the community. A secondary goal is to formulate options and recommendations for the development of key businesses and/or revenue streams in keeping with that vision. A tertiary goal is to develop a pathway or action plan to realize the development of key businesses and revenue streams.

6. Scope of Work & Deliverables

The Contractor's responsibilities will include the following:

- a) Obtain and assess available community and Nation economic information as well as relevant external economic trends.
- b) Review land values identified in past planning documents to determine land use opportunities and constraints.

- c) Recommend options for employment and revenue growth that balance economic aspirations with social and environmental values as well as human resource limitations.
- d) Develop an action plan for the recommended forest management option.

The consultant (or consulting team) should submit a resume of qualifications that shows his/her consulting experience associated with community economic development planning, particularly with indigenous communities, indigenous community engagement and/or familiarity with the Tsilhqot'in culture and the Cariboo-Chilcotin area. Along with your resume, please include 3 references relevant to your work experience as well as any examples of strategies that illustrate your work.

Due to COVID travel restrictions, it is expected that the consultant will have limited physical contact with Xeni Gwet'in community members at least for the early part of the project. Hence, to facilitate engagement, a Xeni Gwet'in consultant will be appointed to work with the community to gain feedback on questions or recommendations as the project progresses.

7. Timeline

Please provide a detailed resume of all members who will be engaged in the planning project to the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government no later October 16, 2020.

8. Budget

The budget for the project consultant is \$68,000 (fees and expenses). A separate budget will be allocated for a Xeni Gwet'in consultant.

9. Rates

Please provide daily rates for each of the consulting team.

Consultant Names	Hourly Rate

10. Workplanning

Once a consultant is selected, a steering committee will work with the consultant to develop a workplan and budget to undertake the economic development strategy. It is expected that the strategy will be completed no later than March 31, 2021.

10. Delivery of Qualifications:

Resumes must be in English and must be submitted by Email no later than 3pm on October 16, 2020 to John Lerner (jhnlerner@gmail.com)