

## STAFF LETTER - ANNA BARLEY



*Our Staff Letter this month is from CEO Anna Barley*

Happy New Year. I am sure many of you are glad to see an end to what for many has been a tough year. Through the challenges of 2020 also came opportunities and we see that continuing into 2021. Opportunities that include first of its kind funding, innovations for engagement and people banding together in new ways. While the most common phrase last year may have been "you are on mute," we hope we can coin a new phrase soon such as "it's so good to see

you in person." We have new developments such as our funding tracking application that has launched; stay tuned for updates on that. We also continue to add to our team to provide depth of experience in the work we do. Nelson Lepine has joined our team this month, and we invite you to read his letter in this newsletter on why he decided to join our team. Strategies North has big plans for 2021 to build on the successes of 2020 for both ourselves and our clients. All of us at Strategies North wish you all the very best in 2021 and in the wise words of Bonnie Henry, "Be Kind, Be Calm and Be Safe."

*Anna Barley*



*Grant and Anna*

# Welcome to Nelson Lepine!

Nelson was born in Saskatchewan and is a member of the Mikisew Cree First Nation from Fort Chipewyan, Alberta. Nelson has obtained his Journeyman Carpentry Inter Provincial Trades Certification. His past roles include 11 years with Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) and as CEO of the Carcross/Tagish Management Corporation.

Nelson has been involved with many boards and committees including over the years as a Director, Chair, and President

He calls Yukon his home with his wife Karen, two children and four grandchildren.



## A letter from Nelson: *Why I chose Strategies North*

I first met the Strategies North team when I was working for a First Nation development Corporation as their CEO and we hired SN to do some proposal writing for us. I was involved in some really exciting projects, but the uniqueness was I was putting people first and money second. It's hard to build a First Nation without including First Nation citizens. The idea was to include as many citizens as possible, this way they can be a part of something instead of watching from the sidelines. Our other unique approach was to target citizens that were unemployed and or on social assistance. At the time I didn't notice that, in my opinion, that's how Strategies North was already looking at projects, their focus was First Nation citizens as well. I spoke with Grant on numerous occasions about work I was doing and the issues I was having; he was, and continues to be a great ear. I met Anna and was excited to hear how Strategies North approaches their and the way they do things inside the organization.

I resigned from the CEO position after 4 years working there. It was time to try something new. Grant contacted me and asked if I was interested in meeting to look at the possibility of working together with Strategies North. We both told our stories, and for me, what stood out was how willing both Anna and Grant were in bringing me on knowing what my passion was: investing in people. To me, that type of attitude with organizations and businesses is hard to find. Yes, we all need to make money and pay bills, but to me, it shouldn't be at the detriment of people. If you focus on people, the money will show up, the person changing for the right reasons will happen, the right directions will be formed, and lives will be saved. What else in life will be more fulfilling?

*Welcome Nelson! We're very much looking forward to having you on the team*

# Anna's Chocolate Zucchini Cake

## Ingredients For Cake:

2 cups all-purpose flour (I substitute 1 cup almond flour and 1 cup gluten free)  
3/4 cup unsweetened natural cocoa powder  
2 tsp baking soda  
1/2 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp espresso powder (optional)  
1/2 tsp salt  
1 cup canola, vegetable, or avocado oil  
1 cup granulated sugar (I reduce by a third)  
3/4 cup packed light or dark brown sugar  
4 large eggs, at room temp  
1/3 cup sour cream or plain yogurt, at room temp  
2 tsp pure vanilla extract  
3 cups shredded zucchini  
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

## Ingredients For Icing:

1.25 cups (2.5 sticks) unsalted butter, softened  
3-4 cups confectioners' sugar  
3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder  
3-5 tbsp heavy cream, at room temp  
1/4 tsp salt  
1 tsp pure vanilla extract  
optional for decoration: semi-sweet chocolate chips

## Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F (177°C). Grease two 9x2 inch cake pans (deep dish style). Set aside.



Whisk the flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, espresso powder, and salt together in a large bowl. In another large bowl using a mixer fitted with a paddle or whisk attachment, beat the oil, granulated sugar, brown sugar, eggs, sour cream, vanilla, and zucchini together until combined. Pour into dry ingredients and beat on medium speed until completely combined. Beat in the chocolate chips. Batter will be slightly thick.

Pour batter evenly into cake pans. Bake for around 25-32 minutes or until the cakes are baked through. Allow cakes to cool completely in the pans set on a wire rack before frosting.

Level cooled cakes if domed. On your serving plate, evenly cover the top of 1 cake with frosting. Top with 2nd layer and spread remaining frosting all over the top and sides. Garnish with chocolate chips.

Store at room temperature for 2-3 days or in the refrigerator for up to 5 days.

## CANADIANS WOMEN'S FOUNDATION: SAFER & STRONGER

The Safer & Stronger grants are for organizations that offer support for gender diverse people and women. The grant will support these organizations in addressing, preventing, and reducing gender-based violence., and with supporting the increased number of people seeking support due to gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. Organizations can apply for a range of activities that address gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Eligibility Requirements:

Women's organization or an organization that offer gender-based violence support

Incorporated non-profit organizations with a valid charitable number from CRA, or a First Nation or other organization that is a qualified donee

### Amount:

\$10,000 - \$200,000

### Deadline:

Ongoing until February 15th, 2021.

## KEY DATES

**January 15: National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund - NIB**

Deadline to apply

**January 26: Preventing and Addressing Family Violence - ISC**

Deadline to apply

**February 11: Cultural Infrastructure - Northern Development Initiative Trust**

Deadline to apply

**February 14: Reserve Lands and Environment Management Program - ISC**

Deadline to apply