

Hi friend,

In this newsletter, you'll find an illuminating conversation with Jani Djokic, the CEO of Na-Cho Nyak Dun Development Corporation, who shared her thoughts on NNDDC's approach to economic development work.

We're also sharing some team photos from a recent visit to the head office.

Happy reading - and please stay tuned for an exciting announcement about expanded SN services, coming your way very soon!

- The Strategies North Team



CLIENT SPOTLIGHT Jani Djokic, CEO of Na-Cho Nyak Dun Development Corporation

BY BEN BOGSTIE

Development corporations sit at a unique crossroads of business opportunity and social well-being. Often acting as the major driver of economic self-determination for Indigenous communities, they have both the responsibility and the capability to innovate in the business space and generate economic gains.

That's why the chief executive officer of the Na-Cho Nyak Dun Development Corporation (NNDDC), Andrijana (Jani) Djokic, chooses to do things differently. NNDDC is the business arm for the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun and develops and manage business interests that provide services to the community and create employment opportunities for FNMND members.

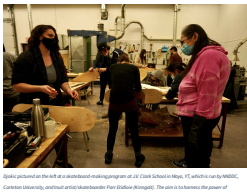
"Whatever you do, approach it as a human first," Djokic told Strategies North in a recent conversation. "That's something that I really tried to bring to the table when I started with NNDDC. Push all agendas to the side, I'm human first, you're human first. Let's have a conversation and build from there."

Djokic's 'human first' approach lends itself to forming strong partnerships – a key element to NNDDC's financial success.

Such partnerships with businesses, industry and other development corporations are critical to regional cooperation, and the development corporation's overall goals. **Djokic said that partnerships are necessary to maximize all available opportunities.**

"If you look at the best businesses out there, they don't do a million things in house, they really try to do some key things really well. And that's where we've tried to take stock of what it is that we want to do really well and do that in house and provide that service to the community and the Nation."

[Full Article Here](#)



Djokic pictured on the left at a skateboard-making program at J.K. Clark School in Hays, VT, which is run by NNDDC, Carleton University, and their artist/skateboarder Pam Grillole (Kingsot). The aim is to harness the power of skateboarding culture to teach hands-on and entrepreneurial skills, and eventually create a viable business run by community youth.

Kamloops Visit & Salute to the Sockeye



Last week we had the delight of having three of our Community Analysts Dylan, Emily, and Grace travel from Manitoba and Ontario to work out of the head Kamloops office.

While they were here we visited the **Salute to the Sockeye**. This is an event held by the Adams River Salmon Society at Ts'lot'ocw'w Provincial Park. Sockeye salmon return to Adams River every year, but the migration that runs every fourth year dwarfs all the others. Our team went on a walk through the park, sampled from the local vendors, and got to see first-hand the return of the sockeye salmon to Adams River!



Grace Smith, Grant Barley, Anna Barley, Brenna Barley, Dylan Poyachev, Emily Huntinghawk, and Frank Busch of NotionFLND.

HAVE YOU MET YANA YET? Meet Yana, Director of Client Services

What is your role at SN in one or two sentences?

"As the Director of Client Services, my role is to identify our clients' unique needs and match them with the team and services that will help them be successful."

What project/proposal has been the most impactful for you and why?

"There is no single project that has been most impactful for me, rather it is moments during my interactions with our incredible clients that are most impactful. Those moments, when an individual trusts me enough to share something personal and meaningful so that I can understand more deeply the significance of the work we are doing, these are the moments of connection that are the most impactful and important."

What would you like to do when you retire?

"Loss of running and hiking adventures in the mountains."

You're hosting a dinner party, what are you serving your guests?

"Something easy like turkey lettuce wraps so that we can spend most of our time connecting and enjoying each other's company (as long as they leave by 8:30!)"



Yana is happy to chat! You can reach her at yana@strategiesnorth.ca or [250-860-1111](tel:250-860-1111).

Thanks for reading!

