



Media release

May 4/2009

BLOOD TRIBE ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

The purpose of the Blood Tribe Economic Impact Assessment is to quantify the economic impact of annual Blood Tribe activities—both by the Tribal administration body and also by individual member spending activities. Specifically, the Assessment considers:

- Determination of the total economic impact of Blood Tribe activities on the local and regional economies.
- Identification of geographical economic impacts from Blood Tribe activities.
- Identification of the industry sectors that are associated with and affected by Blood Tribe activities.
- Identification of new potential economic development opportunities.

The Blood Tribe spent over **\$241,000,000** in 2007 in direct expenditures from Blood Tribe and Blood Tribe member spending. Adjusting for double counting in salaries and wages, this amounted to total expenditures of **\$208,652,000** in 2007—expenditures that entered the Alberta economy and multiplied into a greater economic impact.

The Blood Tribe administration body is actively involved in the direct/indirect management and/or ownership of over 25 administrative bodies, service oriented programs and business entities (`ventures`). This term is used to capture the financial activities of the Blood Tribe administration throughout the assessment.

The Alberta Finance Input Output Model was used to determine the economic impact of these expenditures through a series of customized “open model” runs that addressed specific industry sector effects and multipliers, final demand from personal spending, and the combination of indirect and direct impacts from economic activity of the Blood Tribe. Information inputted into the model included a 100% sample of the expenditures from the Audited Blood Tribe Consolidated Financial Statements and a representative sample of financial history survey responses from individual On-Reserve Blood Tribe members.

Combining the spending of Blood Tribe business ventures and Blood Tribe members, the overall impact is an additional **\$264,046,000 in the Alberta economy**; a contribution of **\$133,396,000 to the Alberta GDP**; increased **provincial labour income of \$89,704,000**; and an additional **2,053 jobs** in the provincial economy.

These numbers are conservative in that Blood Tribe member-owned businesses were not included in the economic impact analysis.

Of greater interest than the actual magnitude of the economic impact is where the impact is felt the most. Spending and economic impact is centered on the Lethbridge area and the Blood Tribe itself. **Lethbridge receives a calculated \$66,090,000** in total economic impact while the **greater Lethbridge area receives a calculated \$37,417,000** in total economic impact from Blood Tribe activities. The **Blood Tribe itself receives over \$72,103,000** in total economic impact from Blood Tribe activities—a testament that the Nation significantly supports its own community. Specific communities that notably benefit in economic impact from specific Blood Tribe expenditures (excluding Lethbridge) include **Cardston (\$22,355,000)**, **Calgary (\$15,785,000)**, and **Fort Macleod (\$12,892,000)**.

Economic impacts are driven from Blood Tribe business venture expenditures into subcontractors, supplies, repairs/maintenance services. Blood Tribe member expenditures are focused into the purchase of groceries, vehicle fuel and clothing.

Economic development opportunities that have been identified from this exercise include:

- The establishment of a gas bar/repair center in Lethbridge or Cardston/Magrath.
- The establishment of a grocery store in Lethbridge.
- The development of a contractor trades model that trains, employs, manages, and markets the services of skilled trades people to Nation and non-Nation stakeholders.

These economic development opportunities have a basis in the amount of spending currently taking place by Nation stakeholders on non-Nation vendors. The opportunities reflect the potential to keep profits from Nation spending within the Nation framework.

For more information, contact:

Rick Tailfeathers
Media Relations
Blood Tribe Administration
Office (403) 737-8106
Mobile (403) 308-0760
E-mail: ricketf@bloodtribe.org

Rob Crow
Director
Blood Tribe Economic Development
Office (403) 737-8124
Mobile (403) 315-2022
E-mail: robcrow@shaw.ca