

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY

Municipal – First Nation Economic Development

For this assignment assume you are working for a company that is expanding operations into a British Columbia community. You have been asked to provide a comparison of a First Nation and the adjacent municipality. You will provide the basic information which will be given to senior management who will use the information provided to make preliminary decisions as to where the business will be located and any issues that might be present.

Choose one of the following twelve nations:

1. *Hesquiaht First Nation*, one of the Nuu-chah-nulth Nations on the west coast of Vancouver Island
2. *Tsawout First Nation* in Saanich near Victoria (part of the Douglas Treaties)
3. *shíshálh Nation* near Sechelt
4. *Klahoose First Nation* north of Powell River
5. *Metlakatla First Nation* on the northern coast of BC;
6. *Taku River Tlingit First Nation* in north western BC
7. *Kitselas First Nation* near Terrace
8. *Stellat'en First Nation* west of Prince George in central BC
9. *Tshilqot'in First Nation* in central BC
10. *Fort Nelson First Nation* (part of Treaty 8)
11. *Yaqan Nukiy* (Lower Kootenay) First Nation in south western BC
12. *Splatsin First Nation* part of the Shuswap Nation, near Enderby

Municipal – First Nation relations are often centred on issues related to jurisdiction, taxation and service agreements. For example, more than 150 First Nations in Canada have the jurisdiction to collect taxes on reserve and the ability to offer business incentives such as access to resources or favourable leases. Areas of Municipal – First Nation partnership include: economic development initiatives, land ownership, use and development and infrastructure cost sharing.

The purpose of this exercise is to gain a greater understanding of the diversity of First Nation communities in BC (there are over 200 nations), and the similarities that all communities share, regardless of their heritage. It is also intended to teach you to improve your researching skills, and to use and format a table properly.

Deliverable: Prepare a short report comparing a Nation and the adjacent municipality.

- A. Conduct research on one of the identified twelve Nations and the adjacent municipality:
- B. Prepare a properly formatted chart that identifies:
 - Demographics
 - Governance (government structure, election terms)
 - Labour force participation
 - Dominant economic activity
 - include band run businesses

Example:

| TITLE | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Municipality | First Nation |
| Population | | |
| Age | | |
| Ethnicity | | |
| Income | | |
| Etc. | | |
| Government Structure | | |
| Dominant Economic Activities | | |

- C. Put the chart in to a report that begins with a paragraph that introduces the two communities. Following the chart provide an analysis of the key points of difference and similarities (approximately 500 words). Your report should be formatted as a simple business report with appropriate title, headings and subheadings. Include a map, some photos or other graphics. End your report with a concluding paragraph.
- D. Include a title page, bibliography and **in text citations** where necessary (e.g. direct quotes or specific data that is not included in the table). Proper referencing is an important part of this assignment.

IMPORTANT: The report should be fact based and as objective as possible. Refrain from value judgements or recommendations.

NOTE: You may not contact the nation directly, but must rely on information publically available. Also, please do not use the nation’s logo as this is not a project sanctioned by that nation.

SUBMISSION: This assignment is worth the equivalent of two class activities, or about 5% of your final grade. Your analysis will not be as in depth as a professional report and is likely to be approximately 500 words. Do not exceed 1000 words total. Submit your document to turnitin by the due date.

Useful sources of information:

- Start with the municipality, and the nation and/or tribal council website – what are the first things the community wants to tell you?
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) First Nation profiles: <http://fnpim-cippn.aandc-aadnc.gc.ca/index-eng.asp>
- Other government websites including Statistics Canada or Industry Canada
- News sources, consider the credibility of the news agency and any biases that might be present

Learning Objectives:

1. Conduct useful research using government websites and other sources of varying reliability.
2. Present demographic information in a readable and objective manner.
3. Properly format maps, photographs, charts and tables.
4. Properly format and structure a short report for business.
5. Learn to cite your research appropriately including using in text citations.