

**2003 INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER
MARK WALLACE WEDGE, YK**



Mr. Wedge's formal entry into the realm of economic development began in 1984. Mark's focus upon spirituality and the importance of cultural values has led to the incorporation into the Carcross/Tagish First Nation's governance system as well as being exemplified within the YIDC's sharing accord provisions. Mark has also incorporated Aboriginal values into Aboriginal Justice Programs.

Mark Wedge was the Chief Lands Claims Negotiator for Carcross/Tagish First Nation, which negotiated an MOU with both the federal and territorial governments. Mark is a member of the Executive Council for the Carcross/Tagish First Nation.

Mark Wedge developed and oversaw the Yukon Indian Entrepreneur Development Corporation (1989-90); this very program was a pillar to the development of dāna Näye Ventures (DNV). Mr. Mark Wedge is currently the President of the Yukon Indian Development Corporation (YIDC) and the Chairperson of dāna Näye Ventures.

Mr. Wedge's extensive history of community involvement have included Mark acting as: Justice of the Peace; Chairperson, Rab Energy Group Ltd.; Vice-President of Hawkshaw Transport, Ltd.; Socio Economic Development Officer, Yukon Baha'i Institute; Commercial Pilot, Alkan Air Ltd.; Acting Executive Director, Council of Yukon Indians; Trapper. Mark held eight different Board Memberships in the past. Mark's different board involvements have included: The Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment; Board of Governors, Yukon College; Board Member, Skookum Jim Friendship Centre. Mr. Wedge is also one of the founding Board Members of 326544 Canada Inc. (dba Northern Aboriginal Services Company Limited – NASCo). Mr. Wedge is also a Board Member for the Four Mountains Resort project as well as the lead media contact person. The Four Mountains Resort will be located within Carcross/Tagish traditional territory. This new development is in the planning stage. It is expected to be a four star resort with 120 rooms.

Mark Wedge is the co-author of a forthcoming book called, *Peacemaking Circles: from Crime to Community*. Mark co-authored this book with Judge Barry Stuart (retired) and Kay Pranis.

Mark Wallace Wedge's contributions have had a direct impact upon the advancement of Aboriginal Economic Development.