The First Nation community of Potlotek (Chapel Island) partnered with the Unama’ki Economic Benefits Office (UEBO) to deliver a day-long series of business workshops in February 2010. The title for the workshops was “Let’s Build Stronger Communities”, or “Ke L’tunej Naji Mlkiknaql Wutanimal” in Mi’kmaw. Workshops included, “Entrepreneurship and Economy Building”, “Career Planning” and “Best Practices in Community Economic Development”.

Cape Breton University and the St. Mary’s University Business Development Centre presented on economic development best practices and the power of community inclusion and identifying opportunities through asset mapping.

Participants were also treated to the wisdom of the “Two Eyed Seeing Concept”. Two-Eyed Seeing is the descriptive label for an important guiding principle for one’s life journey. Albert Marshall, an elder from Eskasoni First Nation, along with Dr. Cheryl Bartlett from the Cape Breton University, explained how this refers to the process of learning how to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledge and then from the other eye with the strengths of the Western (or Eurocentric, conventional, or mainstream) knowledge and then the use of both together, for the benefit of all.

Lindsay Marshall, Director of the Mi’kmaq College Institute (MCI) at the Cape Breton University also presented on “Collaborative Goal Setting” and the importance of working together as a community.