



DR. MONICA DIOCHON

ADVANCING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONG FIRST NATIONS WOMEN IN THE ATLANTIC REGION

Dr. Monica Diochon, professor in the Schwartz School of Business, is actively pursuing research to improve the understanding of business leadership and entrepreneurial activities undertaken by First Nations women across Atlantic Canada. In 2014-2015, she led a team of researchers from StFX, including colleagues **Eileen Alma**, **Sheila Isaac**, and **Dr. Alison Mathie** from the Coady International Institute, which completed a major baseline study on entrepreneurial activities of First Nations women in Atlantic Canada. This project was funded by the Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program (AAEDIRP), in partnership with the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs, in order to better understand entrepreneurship among Aboriginal women and to build Indigenous research capacity. The two-stage research project involved gathering baseline data to document the prevalence of entrepreneurship among Indigenous women, determine the level of interest in engaging in the entrepreneurial process, and understand the factors enabling and constraining engagement. As a result of this work, Dr. Diochon was awarded the Women's Enterprise Organization of Canada Best Paper Award for her paper, *Entrepreneurship among First Nations women in the Atlantic region*, at the Canadian Council for Small Business & Entrepreneurship (CCSBE) annual conference held at StFX in 2014.