

LOCAL NEWS

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**Waycobah chief on trade mission to China** **ERIN POTTIE**

The Cape Breton Post

WAYCOBAH —Chief Morley Googoo will promote his First Nation community as being open for business when he attends a trade mission to China in November.

Googoo is the only chief from Atlantic Canada who will join a delegation of 100 Canadian aboriginal leaders on a trade mission organized by Vancouver-based RCI Capital Group and the Native Investment and Trade Association.

"We've got a good jump on housing, we've built 70-some homes in the last two years. We just finished building a brand new school and now are in the construction stages of building a \$2-million health centre, so the next area we need to work on is economic development and long-term jobs," said Googoo.

The chief, who was recently elected by acclamation to another two-year term, will leave for China on Nov. 1 and is expected back in Nova Scotia on Nov. 17.

The Canadian Aboriginal Business Opportunity trade mission was created to address aboriginal financing needs in Canada. It helps by educating foreign investors about the environmental and economic possibilities of partnering with aboriginal business interests.

"One of the projects that one of my community members has been working on for a number of years is the bottled water industry," said Googoo.

"The other thing is too, is Whycocomagh is a very beautiful location and one of the things we need to capitalize and start talking about is the use of the island and we're looking at a Mi'kmaq village resort (with) hiking trails equivalent to the Fortress of Louisbourg," he said.

Googoo believes many investors are currently seeking opportunities outside of the unstable stock market. He is hoping to develop relationships with those looking to invest and will be sharing success stories with other Canadian aboriginal leaders attending the mission as well.

Waycobah's chief is hoping his community of 860 people will set the standard for investment and development like Membertou and Millbrook have done in recent years.

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