

PRESENTED BY:



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show

Message from the Board



Vision Quest Board Members with Keynote Mo Brings Plenty. (left to right): George Leonard, Tamy Burton, Charlene Beamin, Mo Brings Plenty, Carol Johnston, Joe Cote, and Dave McDonald

With great joy and gratitude, we'd like to thank our sponsors, delegates, exhibitors, speakers & presenters, partners, entertainers, special guests, suppliers and volunteers, who helped make the 25th Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show a RECORD-BREAKING year. An astonishing 1300 people participated in our most successful year to date!

For 25 years, Vision Quest has been proudly promoting Indigenous Business, Community and Economic Development, centering our mission on offering attendees educational and entertaining motivational keynote entertainers, youth programming, as well as ongoing cultural presentations and workshops. With the last two years of virtual or cancelled programming due to the COVID-19

Pandemic, we were elated to have such an amazing turnout to celebrate our return as an in-person event.

After this hiatus, it was fitting that we were able to come back even stronger with an incredible array of talented, motivating and passionate presentations. Please join us next year MAY 17-18, 2023 for the 26th Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show! Until then, Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter and LinkedIn.

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS—VISION QUEST CONFERENCES INC.

Carol Johnston, Chair, Southeast CFDC
Joe Cote, Vice Chair, Cedar Lake CFDC
Charlene Beamin, Dakota Ojibway, CFDC
George Leonard, Kitayan CFDC
Dave McDonald, Kitayan CFDC
Tamy Burton, North Central CFDC

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Colin Vandenberg

SAVE THE DATES! May 17 & 18, 2023 JOIN US FOR THE 26TH VISION QUEST
CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW



Keynotes on Resilience & Relentlessness

Mo Brings Plenty

YELLOWSTONE ACTOR, MUSICIAN, MOTIVATOR

Mo Brings Plenty received thunderous applause when he surprised Vision Quest attendees by appearing live on stage at his keynote presentation which was originally scheduled as a virtual presentation. He warmly welcomed the audience, chuckling “I love to walk into a room and see all my relatives gathered. It is medicine. Very good medicine.”

Mo is an enrolled Lakota from Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and is most known for his recent acting work on *Yellowstone* and *Jurassic Park World Domination*. Growing up, Mo was told that being “Indian was going to get me nowhere in life”. This comment would serve as his motivational push for change, as Indigenous traditions and culture were the frame-work he used to shape his life, and ultimately, as Mo later told the audience “culture would save my life”, and that “traditions got me where I am today as a human being.”

In talking about the importance of culture, Mo proudly talked about the resilience of our community, and emphatically stated that “togetherness is our strength. In separation we fall, and we fall hard. We have issues of a horrible history...but think about it? We can’t change 5 minutes ago? Right? But I do have a life and this gift of today to make tomorrow better for those that are next behind me. That is our duty, I have to think about the next 7 generations. So we carry on...”

Reflecting on our Ancestors, the Grandmothers, and the children we have lost, Mo encourages us to be ourselves by honouring culture and symbolic traditions of our community, like braiding hair and spending time together outside. By honouring community and traditions, Mo says we can help our Ancestors to “dance, smile, and laugh again, by becoming exactly who you were told not to be”.



Jody Wilson-Raybould

FORMER MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA, AUTHOR

This year’s Vision Quest Conferences were enriched by a Keynote from the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, who was Canada’s first Indigenous Minister of Justice and Attorney General, as well as the first woman elected as an Independent Member of Parliament. A descendant of the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk and Laich-Kwil-Tach peoples, she is a member of the We Wai Kai Nation, served two terms as an elected councilor for her Nation and was also Regional Chief of BC Assembly of First Nations and three terms as elected Commissioner of the BC Treaty Commission.

Raised with a strong sense of duty and a need to give back to her community, Jody knows she was born to lead, noting how “it was not a choice, but rather, it is a responsibility”. Growing up, she was shown by her community the importance of Symbolism and Ceremony during her community’s Potlatch, where

her role was to guide the Chief as he walked to the ceremony.

When discussing the path to Reconciliation Jody proclaimed, “We don’t have or need time for more symbolic and performative acts.” For those who want to effect real and tangible change, Jody also encouraged us that “Relentlessness is a feature of our work for true reconciliation.” Further reminding us that our efforts must occur over many generations, and “to effect change in this community, and in our country, requires relentlessness.”

Conference Highlights



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS! Pictured are few of the many individuals who joined the 25th anniversary celebrations!

Certification Course, 16 Workshops, Lunch Presentations, Renowned Entertainers and Special Guests

Vision Quest 2022 kicked off on Tuesday, May 17th, with a sold-out Pre-Conference certification course: Operations – Board & Staff, with Jason Denbow, Community Futures Leadership Institute. Throughout the Conference, 16 Workshops were presented in four categories: business, community/personal development, youth, and a cultural stream of workshops was added in celebration of our milestone anniversary!

Prior to lunch, Colin Ferguson, President and CEO of Travel Manitoba and Kyle Mason, President and CEO of Indigenous Tourism Manitoba, delivered a presentation and explained the importance of growing tourism in the Province and in raising awareness of Indigenous tourism in Manitoba.

Many special guests, musicians, artists and entertainers joined the celebrations this year, including: the Plains Ojibway Singers, Drummers and Dance Troupe, guitar and fiddle father and son duo Clint and Riley Dutiaume, North End Legend (musical trio), visual artist Justine Proulx, comedian Conway Kootenay, Honourary Chair Don Cardinell, Indigenous Veterans, Elder Mae Louise Campbell, MCs Dennis Ward and Melissa Ridgen from APTN and Dave McLeod from NCI/Now Country.

Public Trade Show with over 90 Booths

The Vision Quest Trade Show showcases Indigenous businesses, artists, education and training opportunities, potential employers for youth and those looking for new career challenges, and those who wish to promote their product or services to the Indigenous community. We were thrilled to host over 90 booths at this year's Trade Show, demonstrating the continuing growth and success of Indigenous business in Manitoba.

ELDERS CORNER

A welcomed addition to our 25th anniversary celebration was our Elders' Corner booth in the Trade Show. Delegates were invited to meet, chat, or share a story with our Elders in a relaxed setting. Thank you to the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba for organizing our host Elders in the booth.

GRAFFITI ART PROGRAMMING

A highlight at this year's Trade Show was the community mural by Graffiti Art Programming (GAP). Delegates (adults as well as youth), sponsors, volunteers and exhibitors were invited to join in as an 'artist' in creation of the mural.

GAP is dedicated to promoting urban, contemporary, emerging, and professional artists and promoting the community's youth voice through accessible arts programming and delivering a platform for their voices to be heard.

Attendee Impressions

EXHIBITOR:

"We had a great time at the event and talked to a lot of wonderful students, teachers, educators, etc." -Kathleen, Exhibitor

DELEGATE:

"(Highlight was) Mo's presentation and commitment to be here. So much of what he said rang true to me and validated issues on reserve. Excellent content in his speech." -Dorothy, Delegate

"All speakers were clear with their presentations and answered questions in a positive way." -Connie, Delegate

STUDENT DELEGATE:

"As an Indigenous person I find myself often feeling angry about the lack of change and the inaction of the government in regard to many issues Indigenous people face. However, at this conference my negative mind set shifted as I met many amazing individuals who shared their stories of success. They made me realize that so much has changed in the aspects of representation of Indigenous peoples in politics, business and in the media. They helped me realize that there are so many great Indigenous leaders out there fighting for change and knowing that these people are thriving and making a difference overfilled me with happiness and hope."
- Student, Fort Richmond Collegiate



Awards & Bursaries

Vision Quest Steve Prince Memorial Bursary

In 2003, Vision Quest established a bursary at the University of Manitoba to support Indigenous students pursuing studies in the Asper School of Business. Our bursary has provided important support to Indigenous students who have demonstrated involvement in their community and excel academically. Since establishing this bursary, we have been offering the Vision Quest – Steve Prince Memorial Bursary, a fitting tribute for Steve and his commitment to the Indigenous community. Presented annually at the Vision Quest Conference closing Banquet by the family of the late Steve Prince, this award provides \$1,000 each, to two Indigenous students at the University of Manitoba in the I.H. Asper School of Business.

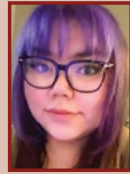


A New Bursary in Honour of Kim Bullard

This year's Vision Quest Conference was dedicated to Kim Bullard. Prior to her unexpected passing in 2021, Kim was the longtime Chair of the Vision Quest Conferences. A strategic thinker, a gifted visionary, and a mentor, Kim was deeply committed to improving the strength of community and economic development in First Nations. She will be deeply missed.

Vision Quest has been working with the University of Manitoba to add a second named award that will start in 2022/2023 to recognize Kim Bullard. These bursaries, for Steve and for Kim, will help to carry on their legacy of support, encouragement and development of our Indigenous youth.

2022 RECIPIENTS



KRISTIN
FIDDLER



REBECCA
MCLEOD

Dragon's Quest Business Plan Competition

Indigenous Business Development Services
& Vision Quest Conferences Inc. present



2022 WINNERS



1ST PRIZE
AMBER LY



2ND PRIZE
KENDRA
D'EON

Vision Quest is pleased to partner with Community Futures Manitoba through the Indigenous Business Development Services (IBDS) program in presenting the Dragon's Quest Business Plan Competition. IBDS is dedicated to promoting and encouraging the spirit of entrepreneurship amongst Indigenous entrepreneurs across Manitoba. Cash prizes assist winners in turning their business dreams into reality.

ABOUT VISION QUEST

The Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show brings together innovators, entrepreneurs and business leaders to discuss and promote Indigenous business, community and economic development.



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Vision Quest Conference
and Trade Show

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*THANK YOU TO ALL OF
OUR VALUED DELEGATES,
SPEAKERS, ENTERTAINERS
AND VOLUNTEERS!*

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May 17 & 18, 2023

If you have an idea for a speaker,
entertainer or workshop you'd
like to see at next year's Vision
Quest, contact us through our
website or social media.