



2025 NACCA FORUM



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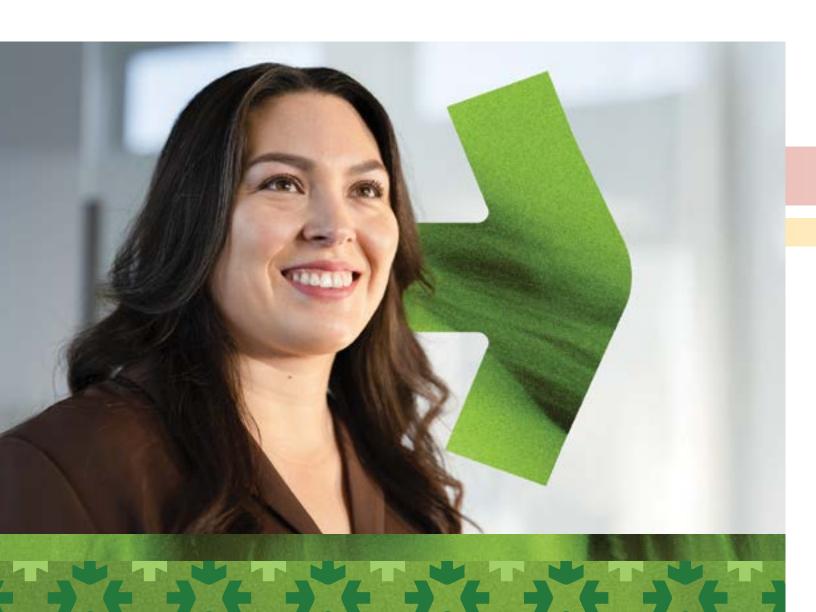
Supporting Indigenous businesses with dedicated services.

Get access to flexible financing, connections across Canada and resources to help you focus on your business journey.



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AT A GLANCE

AGENDA

TUESDAY MAY 6, 2025

6:30-9:30 РΜ PROSPERITY EXCHANGE RECEPTION

Featuring Chief Dave Mowat Blues Trio

WEDNESDAY MAY 7, 2025

7:30-8:45	AM	REGISTRATION, BREAKFAST, NETWORKING	
8:45-9:30	AM	OPENING CEREMONIES	P. 9
9:30-10:30	AM	TRADE & EXPORT PANEL	P. 9
10:30-11:00	AM	HEALTH BREAK	
11:00-12:00	PM	MAJOR PROJECTS PANEL	P. 10
12:00-12:45	PM	LUNCH BREAK	
12:45-1:00	PM	FIRESIDE CHAT WITH BDC	P. 10
1:00-2:00	PM	INDIGENOUS TOURISM PANEL	P. 11
2:00-2:30	PM	HEALTH BREAK	
2:30-3:30	PM	INDIGENOUS PROCUREMENT PANEL	P. 13
3:30-3:45	PM	LOOKING AHEAD FOR THE NETWORK	
4:00-5:00	PM	INDIGENOUS PROSPERITY MARKET "Vendor Shop around the market space and support Indigenous artisans and entreprene	
6:00-6:30	PM	PRE-GALA RECEPTION	P. 14
6:30-9:30	PM	INDIGENOUS PROSPERITY AWARDS AND GA	ALA

THURSDAY MAY 8, 2025

7:30-9:00	AM	REGISTRATION, BREAKFAST, NETWORKING	G
9:00-9:05	AM	OPENING REMARKS	
9:05-9:25	AM	PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW: IGF	P. 15
9:25-10:05	AM	FIRESIDE CHAT: INDIGENOUS GROWTH FU	JND P. 15
10:05-10:35	AM	HEALTH BREAK	
10:35-11:35	AM	INDIGENOUS YOUTH PANEL	P. 16
11:35-11:45	AM	INTRODUCING THE DMZ LAUNCHPAD	P. 17
11:45-12:10	PM	LUMINARY PRESENTATION	P. 17
12:10-1:00	PM	LUNCH BREAK	
1:00-1:10	PM	INDIGENOUS PROSPERITY FOUNDATION	P. 17
1:10-1:40	PM	RESEARCH UPDATE WITH KEN COATES	P. 18
1:40-2:10	PM	PERFORMANCE BY MICHAEL AUDETTE	P. 18
2:10-2:30	PM	CLOSING CEREMONIES AND PRIZES	P. 18







A MESSAGE FROM

Elaine Chambers

Chair of the Board, NACCA



On behalf of NACCA, I'm thrilled to welcome delegates to the sixth annual Indigenous Prosperity Forum! This year's theme, "IGNITE Indigenous Prosperity," could not be timelier.

Almost four decades ago, the spark of also learn why it all happens. In his latest Indigenous business development ignited a flame that has spread through our Nations from coast to coast to coast.

In the next two days, you will hear stories told around the fire: stories about our Nations taking part in major resource projects. about cultural tourism and procurement initiatives, and about the ventures made possible by Canada's first Indigenousmanaged capital fund, the Growth Fund,

You'll hear from Indigenous vouth entrepreneurs, whose advice is kindling interest in a new generation, and about the latest news from the Indigenous Prosperity Foundation, which works with philanthropic investors to support earlystage entrepreneurs.

You'll hear panels and frank exchanges, have opportunities to network, and you'll research about the growth of Indigenous business activity, author Ken Coates concludes it is "the most consequential and

> effective poverty reduction program in Canada."

"We truly operate at the frontlines of reconciliation. The fires we light warm entire communities."

Indigenous

We are Indigenous lenders and business leaders from coast to coast to coast. Working with non-Indigenous partners, we operate at the frontlines of reconciliation. The fires we

light warm entire communities. We help our Peoples realize their economic rights and improve their well-being.

Welcome! Come inside. We can't wait to share our stories with you.

Elaine Chambers CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS NATIONAL ABORIGINAL CAPITAL CORPORATIONS ASSOCIATION



THANK YOU TO OUR

SPONSORS





PLATINUM:



GOLD:





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BRONZE:

PROSPERITY EXCHANGE RECEPTION:



REGISTRATION:



LUNCH & HEALTH BREAKS:



Canada



NACCA HUB BOOTH:



PROUD SUPPORTER:



GALA DINNER:



INDIGENOUS WOMAN ENTREPRENEUR AWARD:



INDIGENOUS YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR AWARD:



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD:



INDIGENOUS BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD:



Thank you to the Government of Canada for your generous support.







A MESSAGE FROM

Shannin Metatawabin

CEO, NACCA



This year we come together, a network of Indigenous lenders and our partners. We've all had long journeys to get here—whether Indigenous or non-Indigenous, in government, finance, or the private sector. Now that we're here, we have many stories to share. I look forward to hearing them all.

"Indigenous

business

Through loans and tailored programs, the Indigenous Financial Institution network has fanned the flame of entrepreneurship for four decades. We have always observed what the research tells us: Indigenous business development is the way forward for our Peoples, better than any government program.

And now we have much to celebrate. Our members disbursed a record number of loans last year and \$35 million under our flagship Aboriginal

Entrepreneurship Program. Our Indigenous women's program is in high demand. Our youth programming is now taking off. Together with our national Indigenous partner organizations, we are working to establish a new First Nations Procurement Authority, which will ensure that all contractors benefiting from Indigenous setasides are in fact Indigenous.

Only now are we seeing the tools that will enable our Peoples to take a full share in the prosperity of this country. Only now are we beginning to realize the treaty benefits our ancestors intended.

Our Peoples-our communities, their well-

being, their prosperity—are emerging from the darkness into the light. As we celebrate our successes over the next few days, let's also recall how far we must go. Let's recall the goal of socio-economic parity and consider how we can help make it happen.

development is the way forward for our Peoples."

Thank you all for coming. We welcome you on our journey toward shared prosperity.

Kinanskoomatin,

CEO

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL CAPITAL CORPORATIONS ASSOCIATION

Shannin Metatawabin



CREATING **INDIGENOUS PROSPERITY**

NACCA fosters economic growth for all Indigenous people across the country. We are a network of 50+ autonomous Indigenous Financial Institutions (IFIs) that offer loans to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit businesses right in their communities.

Together, we have delivered more than 53,000 loans totaling more than 3.3 billion dollars to small and medium First Nations, Métis, and Inuit businesses from coast to coast to coast.



Indigenous Financial Institutions

Disbursed by IFIs

Funding Delivered to Indigenous Businesses

Jobs Created



PARTNERS IN PROSPERITY

IFIs are more than financial institutions; they're dedicated partners in success.

They offer:

- Expertise informed by community
- Tailored financing solutions
- Mentorship to guide growth

NEXT STEPS

When entrepreneurs connect with IFIs they are able to:

- Explore business potential
- Access the right financial tools
- Gain ongoing support and training

Through our association, we provide solutions to the unique challenges faced by Indigenous Entrepreneurs to create true Indigenous Prosperity.









OPENING NIGHT

6:30-9:30 PM PROSPERITY EXCHANGE RECEPTION

Featuring Chief Dave Mowat Blues Trio





From fashion to fishing and mining to machinery, the world still wants what we have to export.

Since 1944, we've helped Canadian businesses thrive confidently on the global stage – even in the most unpredictable times.

Whether you're navigating currency fluctuations, need additional working capital or mitigating supply chain risks, we've got your back.

Market uncertainty may seem inevitable, but we're here to ensure you can continue to grow beyond our borders.

The world needs more Canada. **Together, let's give it to them.**







DAY ONE AGENDA

7:30-8:45 AM REGISTRATION, BREAKFAST, NETWORKING

Sponsored by AlumaSafway

8:45-9:30 AM **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Meet Stan Wesley, Kahnekahnekahtahk (Host/Leader)

Opening Prayer: Elder Claudette Commanda

Welcome Address: Elaine Chambers, Chair of the Board, NACCA

9:30-10:30 AM TRADE & EXPORT PANEL

TRADE & EXPORT

<u>NAVIGATING NEW PATHS</u>

Building Resilient Indigenous Businesses Through Trade & Export Supply Chains



MODERATED BY: **Donna St. Louis** Export Development Canada **PANELISTS:**

Senator Paul Prosper Senate of Canada

Richard Tauehe Jefferies Tiaki Enterprise Ltd., New Zealand

Lee-Anne Hermann

Executive Director, Intergovernmental Relations Regional Offices & Inclusive Trade, Global Affairs Canada

With recent shifts in the political landscape, Canadian businesses have been forced to consider alternative markets, suppliers and logistics. Indigenous businesses are uniquely positioned to capitalize on these opportunities thanks to procurement and economic development initiatives (Australia and New Zealand) and advances made via the Indigenous Peoples Economic & Trade Cooperation Agreement (IPETCA).

This panel will explore the shifts that Indigenous businesses have made in response to economic tariffs, the proximity of Indigenous businesses to the export supply chain, the importance of Indigenous authenticity, and domestic trade strategies to strengthen the efficiency and security of the inter-provincial Canadian supply chain. #





10:30-11:00 AM HEALTH BREAK Sponsored by Alto Train

Visit the Indigenous Prosperity Market

11:00-12:00 PM MAJOR PROJECTS PANEL

MAJOR PROJECTS

LESSONS LEARNED

in Community Building through Major Projects



MODERATED BY:

Andrew Leach

Andrew Leach & Associates

PANELISTS:

Derrick Neeposh

President, CREECO

Allan Clarke

Kwitelut Carla GeorgeFirst Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC)

Vice President, Indigenous Relations, Alto Train

Major projects have long been viewed as the key economic drivers that lead to positive and sustainable change and growth in Indigenous communities. Many Nations are now lead investors and owners of major initiatives and operations from coast to coast to coast. These projects create sustained wealth, career and capacity building opportunities, local jobs with competitive pay and benefits, and procurement and supply opportunities for small and medium sized businesses.

Organizations such as the First Nations Major Projects Coalition provide tools, capacity supports, and advice related to corporate structures and benefit sharing models. The shared learnings of these 150+ members are helping lead the development of Nations looking to regain their economic independence through major infrastructure, real estate, and energy projects.

This panel will explore some of the best examples of Indigenous success in major projects and the key elements needed to advance these big, impactful ventures in a way that leads to timely and sustainable benefits for Indigenous communities. #

12:00-12:45 PM LUNCH BREAK Sponsored by Alto Train

Visit the Indigenous Prosperity Market

12:45-1:00 PM FIRESIDE CHAT WITH BDC





1:00-2:00 PM INDIGENOUS TOURISM PANEL

INDIGENOUS TOURISM

FROM ROOTS TO REVENUE

Scaling Indigenous Tourism



INTRODUCED BY:

Jenifer Pilon

Director General - Tourism Branch,

MODERATED BY:
Robert Bernard

Executive Director Nova Scotia Indigenous Tourism Enterprise Network PANELISTS:

Kevin Eshkawkogan

President & CEO, Indigenous Tourism Ontario

Paula Amos

Chief Marketing & Development Officer, Indigenous Tourism BC (ITBC)

Luke Wassegijig

Tourism Manager, Wikwemikong Development Commission

JP Obbagy

CEO, Homalco Business Group, Campbell River, BC

The Conference Board of Canada, in a study released in January 2025, indicated that more than 2,750 entrepreneurs and organizations were part of the Indigenous tourism sector in Canada in 2023. The Indigenous tourism sector in Canada generated an estimated \$3.7 billion in revenues in 2023, directly contributing \$1.6 billion to GDP and supporting about 34,700 jobs across the country. Including supply chain and induced spending, the sector's total economic impact was \$3.7 billion in GDP, supporting nearly 54,700 jobs and contributing close to \$1.3 billion in government revenue.

Although largely recovered from the pandemic lows, the Indigenous tourism sector's overall economic footprint remains below pre-pandemic levels, with revenues and nominal GDP down by 8 and 10 per cent, respectively. In response to the pandemic, in 2022, the Federal

Government committed \$20M in support of the Indigenous Tourism Fund (ITF) to help the Indigenous tourism industry recover and position itself for long-term growth. Of this, \$10M in support was provided under the Signature Indigenous Tourism Experiences Stream (SITES) program announced at last vear's Prosperity Forum. Working with Provincial Indiaenous Tourism Organizations. funding was provided to a handful of projects across the country supporting the scaling-up of export-ready, viable, and community-supported offerings that draw high-value tourists to Canada.

In addition to providing an overview of Canada's Indigenous Tourism Sector, this panel will explore the opportunities and challenges faced by Indigenous tourism operators in Canada, and the critical role played by Indigenous Tourism Organizations in the development of



Continued from page 11

meaningful tourism experiences that understanding and economic prosperity. communities while contributing to cultural will also be showcased. #

respect the inherent rights of Indigenous A number of SITES supported projects

2:00-2:30 PM **HEALTH BREAK** Sponsored by Alto Train

Visit the Indigenous Prosperity Market

2:30-3:30 PM INDIGENOUS PROCUREMENT PANEL

INDIGENOUS PROCUREMENT

THE FUTURE of Indigenous Procurement



MODERATED BY: John Johnstone CANDO | PSPC

PANELISTS:

Joëlle Paquette

Acting Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Procurement PSPC

Sam Damm

President, FoxWise Technologies Inc.

Mark Dokis

Founding Director, First Nations Procurement Authority

Wade Griffin

Director, Indigenous Procurement BGIS

This procurement panel will provide an overview of the changing landscape and advances in Indigenous procurement and share best practices when procuring goods and services from Indigenous business. Indigenous procurement leaders

will share strategies to ensure purchasers of Indigenous goods and services are conducting themselves in an ethical manner that contributes to the shared goal of igniting Indigenous prosperity. #









2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

3:30-3:45 PM LOOKING AHEAD - WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE NETWORK
Speaker: Shannin Metatawabin, CEO - NACCA

4:00-5:00 PM **INDIGENOUS PROSPERITY MARKET "Vendor Hour"**Shop around the market space and support Indigenous artisans and entrepreneurs.

6:00-6:30 PM PRE-GALA RECEPTION

6:30-9:30 PM GALA - PROGRAM TO BEGIN PROMPTLY





FNBC#

INDIGENOUS BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

FIRST NATIONS BANK OF CANADA

NACCA IFI AWARDS



IFI DISTINGUISHED LEADER AWARD **IFI INNOVATION AWARD** IFI SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AWARD



GALA DINNER SPONSOR

TD INDIGENOUS BANKING



MAY 7, 2025 | 6:30 PM JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION AT 6 PM

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DAY TWO AGENDA

REGISTRATION, BREAKFAST, NETWORKING 7:30-9:00 AM

Sponsored by AlumaSafway

9:00-9:05 AM **OPENING REMARKS**

Stan Wesley, Kahnekahnekahtahk (Host/Leader)

INDIGENOUS GROWTH FUND

9:05-9:25 AM **PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW**

Presented by: Frank Richter, Managing Director, IGF

9:25-10:05 AM **FIRESIDE CHAT**

With: Sarah MacNeil, Senior Manager, Strategic Partnerships

& Investor Relations, IGF

INDIGENOUS-LED BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION ON VANCOUVER ISLAND



JOINED BY:

Jeraldine Marshall

Director of Finance, Nuu-chah-nulth **Economic Development Corporation**

Leslie Jackson

Head of Corporate Communications & Public Policy, Canada, Block

The Indigenous Growth Fund (IGF) is an Then, a fireside chat will highlight the investors, committed bv accredited medium sized businesses across Canada by investing in the portfolios of Indigenous Financial Institutions.

An opening keynote will provide exclusive look at IGF's 2024 performance and how its investments are driving Indigenous business growth, strengthening regional economies, and fostering long term economic transformation.

open-ended investment fund structured economic shift on Vancouver Island, led as a limited partnership. With \$153 million by Indigenous innovation, fueled by the Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development IGF expands lending opportunities for Corporation (NEDC), and strengthened by Indigenous entrepreneurs and small to forward thinking investors like Block Inc. through IGF.

> This discussion will explore how Indigenous businesses are reshaping industries, redefining partnerships. and driving sustainable, community-led prosperity with IGF as a key catalyst. #





10:05-10:35 AM **HEALTH BREAK** Sponsored by Alto Train

Visit the Indigenous Prosperity Market

10:35-11:35 AM **INDIGENOUS YOUTH**

INDIGENOUS YOUTH

FUELING PROSPERITY

Indigenous Youth Entrepreneurship



MODERATED BY:

Magnolia Perron

Director of Strategy and

Partnerships, NACCA

PANELISTS:

Michelle Okere

Executive Director, Indigenous Prosperity Foundation

Anthony Wingham

Co-Founder Nuez Acres, Founder Métis Print | NACCA Youth Council Member

Holly Atjecoutay

DEI & Director Indigenous & Northern Entrepreneurs, Head

Logan Smith

Founder of AxeLite Contracting Ltd.

New national programs and initiatives are opening new doors to support the next generation of Indigenous entrepreneurs. With the introduction of NACCA's new Indigenous Youth Entrepreneurship Program, the Prosperity Indigenous Foundation's youth initiatives, and support from organizations like Futurpreneur Canada, youth entrepreneurs across the country now have more tools to learn, grow, and succeed.

This dynamic panel features Indigenous youth entrepreneurs who will share their real-life experiences of starting and growing their businesses. Panelists will reflect on the challenges and successes they've faced, the role of cultural identity in shaping their ventures, and the

impact of the programs and mentorship opportunities they've accessed along the way. Panelists will also discuss the support systems available to young Indigenous entrepreneurs, and how these new programs are helping shape a brighter future for Indigenous youth entrepreneurs across the country.

Together, they'll explore how partnerships and emerging initiatives are creating new pathways for Indigenous youth in business – and how these efforts are helping build a stronger, more inclusive economy for future generations. Join us for an inspiring conversation that highlights the voices of Indigenous youth and celebrates their entrepreneurial spirit. #



11:35-11:45 AM INTRODUCING THE LAUNCHPAD (DMZ)

11:45-12:10 PM LUMINARY PRESENTATION



Terri Lynn Morrison National Program Director, Luminary

Kelly Lendsay Founder & CEO, Luminary



This session will introduce Luminary's businesses, five-year initiative supported by ISED's schools strategic science fund, building stronger pathways for Indigenous research. economic innovation. and growth. NACCA's letter of support for Luminary's outcomes. Terri Lynn & Kelly will share successful SSF award underscores the commitment to address the economic innovation gap. Learn how Luminary addressing the fosterina gap, partnerships between Indigenous

communities. business and academic institutions to drive Indigenous-informed multidisciplinary research collaborations to transform economies and wellbeing success stories, outline new collaboration models and show how Luminary is helping shape a more inclusive future through Indigenous innovation. #

LUNCH BREAK Sponsored by Alto Train PM 12:10-1:00

Visit the Indigenous Prosperity Market

PM INDIGENOUS PROSPERITY FOUNDATION 1:00-1:10



Michelle Okere Executive Director, Indigenous Prosperity Foundation

Bobbie Racette Board Chair. Indigenous Prosperity Foundation







1:10-1:40 PM KEN COATES RESEARCH UPDATE

RESEARCH UPDATE

NO CANADIAN PROSPERITY

Without Indigenous Prosperity



PRESENTED BY:

Ken Coates

Professor Emeritus, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan | Distinguished Fellow and Director of Indigenous Affairs, Macdonald Laurier Institute | President, Coates Holroyd Consulting Inc.

The rise, expansion, and intensity of Indigenous economic activity is the most consequential and effective poverty reduction program in Canada. Indigenous business is not just business in the hands of Indigenous peoples; it is, instead, a broad, diverse, and complex social enterprise designed to help First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people overcome generations of oppression, racism, and marginalization.

Indigenous peoples approach this work with entrepreneurial enthusiasm,

business acumen, and commercial innovation. Their work is driven, equally, by commitment to the land, the water, and the people; zeal for cultural renewal; and full recognition of the formidable barriers standing between Indigenous people and commercial success.

Participants will hear new research findings on Indigenous businesses in Canada and how Indigenous people are buying Canada back, one business at a time. #



DID YOU KNOW?

Indigenous businesses contribute over \$30 billion annually to Canada's GDP. Their impact goes beyond numbers, fostering community growth and cultural preservation.

1:40-2:10 PM PERFORMANCE BY MICHAEL AUDETTE

2:10-2:30 PM CLOSING CEREMONIES AND PRIZES

futurpreneur ::..

Tune into your business dreams

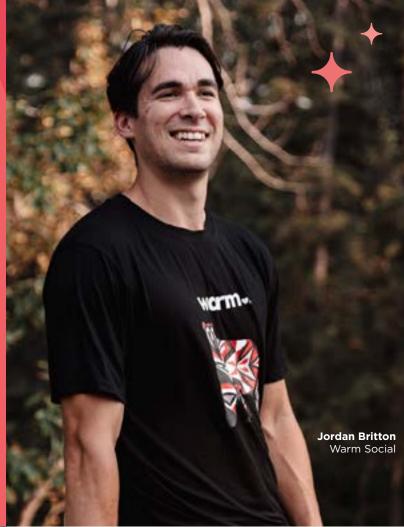
LOANS + MENTORSHIP + RESOURCES

Are you an indigenous entrepreneur aged 18-39 looking to launch or grow your own business? We can help.





Learn more at futurpreneur.ca/indigenous





Shape the future of the agriculture and food industry

FCC Vision, our national research panel, is looking for Indigenous perspectives from the agriculture, agribusiness, and food and beverage industries. You don't have to be an FCC customer to join – we welcome diverse opinions on how we can better serve the sector.

- Participate in quick online surveys to share your ideas and views
- · Shape events that affect your industry

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338 SOMERSET STREET WEST OTTAWA, ON K2P 0J9



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