



Vision Quest

CONFERENCE 2010

Promoting Aboriginal Business, Community and Economic Development

Message from the Vision Quest Board

As leaves turn to yellow and orange, our thoughts turn to planning our next Vision Quest Conference. But first, we'd like to send you some highlights from this year's event.

The 14th Vision Quest Conference, which took place May 18 to 20 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre, saw substantial growth in numbers. Total Conference attendance (not including the banquet) was tallied at 1024 participants. From this total, 289 were youth delegates – an increase in youth attendance of 32% over the 2009 Conference.

We are grateful for all who help make Vision Quest a success year after year – our sponsors, speakers, partners, presenters, delegates, exhibitors, staff, volunteers, media friends, and special guests. Thank you to everyone!

Special thanks to our 2010 Honourary Chair Philip Dorion, Vision Quest Elder Mae Louise Campbell, Master of

Ceremonies Robert Campbell, and two exceptional Keynote Speakers – Wes Studi and Ralph 'Junior' Moar.

We hope everyone enjoyed themselves this year, and we encourage you to mark your calendars for the 15th annual Vision Quest Conference – May 17 to 19, 2011. See you then!

From the Board of Directors Vision Quest Conferences Inc.

- Kim Bullard, Dakota Ojibway CFDC
- Carol Johnston, Southeast CFDC
- Rick Ducharme, Cedar Lake CFDC
- Marc Randy Ranville, Kitayan CFDC
- Leann Brown, North Central CFDC
- Jamie Hunt, Northwest CFDC



Wes Studi delivers keynote presentation on the opening day of the conference.

Wes Studi: From Vision to Reality

The legendary Wes Studi provided the opening keynote presentation on May 19. Wes is known as an internationally acclaimed actor, sculptor, musician, author, activist, Vietnam veteran, and full-blooded Cherokee.

Originally from Oklahoma, Wes can be seen on the big screen in countless film roles including Hollywood blockbusters like *Dances With Wolves*, *The Last of the Mohicans*, *Heat*, and James Cameron's *Avatar*. He can also be seen on the 'small screen' on NBC's *Kings*, and in other television series and movies.

continued...



Honourary Chair Philip Dorion welcomes all to Vision Quest

Vision Quest Conference Partners





Wes Studi signs autographs at the Vision Quest Trade Show

“Wes Studi” continued....

Vision Quest was thrilled to have Wes on the Conference stage, sharing stories about his creative career, and how he has adapted over the years. He spoke about changes he has seen during his time in the entertainment industry, with the most recent – and most astounding – being the technology put to use to make the film Avatar.

One of the messages that Wes brought to Vision Quest was to embrace technology, rather than fear it. “The more you know, and the more you can do, elevates your thinking process and provides one more window into your reality.”

He also spoke of the importance of maintaining and preserving native languages. “If you can speak another language, other than English, it makes you a bit more unique. Keep it up.

Add new words to keep up with technology and

the changing times. Rejuvenating a language ensures it will grow and flourish. The Creator provided the language, but it’s up to us to make every effort to keep the language alive.”

YOUTH DELEGATION GROWING

Vision Quest is proud to announce that 289 youth delegates attended the Conference in 2010 – an increase of 32% from 2009. The exciting and diverse youth program included workshops about Aboriginal youth leadership by Don Burnstick, transforming dreams into reality by DJ Sadie from Streetz FM, and ‘turning the tides’ of your life by Ralph ‘Junior’ Moar. The Graffiti Gallery once again provided opportunity for youth to explore their creative sides through mural making, breakdancing and dj-ing.

Comedy Night

The Vision Quest Comedy Night featured a talented performer who not only tells funny jokes, but who also promotes healing and personal wellness. Don Burnstick took to the stage to get the laughter flowing. One of Canada’s best comedians, Don’s ongoing mission is to leave a better world for future generations – while making us all laugh along the way.



Klaus Lahr, President and CEO of The Winnipeg Convention Centre, and Kim Bullard accepting the Ambassador Plaque on behalf of Vision Quest

VISION QUEST NAMED TO WALL OF FAME

The Winnipeg Convention Centre and the City of Winnipeg honoured Vision Quest Conferences Inc. with induction into its prestigious Ambassador Plaque Program. The plaque was presented to Board Chair Kim Bullard during a special reception in recognition of Vision Quest’s outstanding contribution to the planning and organization of this unique annual event. Vision Quest is now featured among a group of highly distinguished associations on the Winnipeg Convention Centre’s Wall of Fame, located just inside of the York Avenue entrance.

STEADY TRAFFIC AT TRADE SHOW

More than 80 Exhibitors were on display at the Trade Show, representing business suppliers, service providers, career opportunities, hospitality groups, economic organizations, educational institutions, and information services, along with a selection of artists and crafters. Free public admission brought in many new people to browse the booths on display by Exhibitors from Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Canada.



Exhibitors participated at the 2010 Vision Quest Conference Trade Show

Ralph 'Junior' Moar: FROM WINNIPEG GANG TO CANADIAN CHAMPION

Winnipeg's own Ralph 'Junior' Moar, Canada's Light Heavyweight Boxing Champion, was the keynote speaker on May 20. He won the Canadian Middleweight Amateur Championship at the age of 18, and was also voted CABA boxer of the year before his life took a turn.

Junior got involved with Winnipeg gangs and ended up in jail, where his time included 27 months in solitary confinement for his own protection. After the death of his brother, taken by leukemia in 2001, Junior re-evaluated his life. Today, he is clean and sober in Richmond BC, trains with a former Canadian Olympic fighter, and runs a baby furniture store with his wife.

In Junior's moving presentation, he talked about his not-so-proud journey. "When I discovered I had a knack for boxing, I went from nobody to somebody very fast. Success came fast, and no one prepared me for that. I came from a world of little respect, and started going out, and seeing gang members showing each other respect. It looked good to me, and I became attracted to gang life. So I got involved."

"One thing I learned was change comes from within. I had to ask myself, what can I do to change these things in my life? The gang life was not a way to live, and I got sick of living like that."

Junior learned there are no easy roads to success, and no easy ride – no matter what people promise you. Success comes from working hard every day, and making good choices. Whether running a business, or being a boxer, achieving success takes hard work.



Ralph 'Junior' Moar takes time to meet his fans at the Vision Quest Trade Show



D'Aoust Brothers headline performance during closing night Gala Banquet

GLITTER AND GLAMOUR ON THE GALA MENU

An always-favourite event at Vision Quest is the closing night Gala Banquet. How do they keep people coming back year after year?? Take 500 guests decked out in formal wear, sprinkle with dancers and singers, stir in stunning models strutting modern fashions, mix with engaging speakers and exciting prize draws, add a delicious three-course dinner, and top it all off with one great musical performance by the D'Aoust Brothers.. and there you have it – the recipe for success!



IN MEMORY OF BILLY MONIAS

The Vision Quest Board would like to dedicate this newsletter in memory of Billy Monias. Billy was Chair of Kitayan CF and a valued member of the Community Futures family for many years. He was a friend to all he met, and we are honoured to have known Billy.

Award Presentations

Manitoba Hydro: Spirit of the Earth Award Recipients

Wahbung Abinoonjiiag Inc. (*Children of Tomorrow*)
– *Returning to our Roots Community Gardens*

Jeanne Besaw – *St. Theresa Point art program*

Peter Symchuk – *Métis carver*

Raymond Anderson – *Youth wilderness mentor*

Tabitha Martens – *Community Connections: Exploring our Culture through Mapping*

Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival
– *The Pas annual event*

Eleanor Woitowicz
– *Mel Johnson School gardening project*

Dr. Stan Wilson and Dr. Peggy Wilson
– *Land-based education program*

Aboriginal Circle of Educators – *education program*

Sherise Nepinak – *Aboriginal youth leader*

Reil Munro, Aboriginal Filmmaker/Director
– *Fuel oil spill safety project*

Garry Gurke, *Nueltin Fly In Lodges* and
David Carrick – *Fish Futures*

Aboriginal Business Service Network: Business Plan Competition Award Recipients

Urban: Darren McMillan, *DJM Golf Services (Winnipeg)*
Rural: Timothy Sweeny, *Creeway Aviation (Thompson)*

Vision Quest: Steve Prince Memorial Bursary

Judy Klassen, *student in the University of Manitoba's I.H. Asper School of Business.*



WHAT OUR DELEGATES SAID...

"Inspiring and informative."

"Delighted to be here learning and meeting people."

"Very useful information and real life experiences."

"Wonderful, interactive hands on activities."

GOT NEWS?

Vision Quest wants to know your good news! If you made special connections at Vision Quest in 2010, discovered a new opportunity, or found the Conference to be a great place to 'seal the deal'... we'd love to feature your success story on the Vision Quest website.

Please share your story by sending an email to visionquest@mts.net. Everyone who submits will be entered in a draw for a complimentary Delegate pass in 2011. Deadline for submissions is December 31, 2010.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

The 15th Vision Quest Conference will take place May 17 to 19, 2011 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. Hope to see you there!

ABOUT VISION QUEST

Vision Quest brings together innovators, entrepreneurs and business leaders to discuss and promote Aboriginal business, community and economic development. At the heart of Vision Quest is the mission of supporting sustainable Aboriginal economic development, and the goal of the emergence of best business practices that support and synergize community and individual development. For more information, please contact Vision Quest today:



Vision Quest Conferences Inc.

Phone: (204) 942-5049 Fax: (204) 943-1735

Email: visionquest@mts.net

200 - 208 Edmonton St. Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1R7

Web: www.vqconference.com

Conference Coordinators:

Melanie Rennie

Debbie Maslowsky

Anne-Marie Thibert

Stacey Beito

Administrative Assistant/ Bookkeeper:

George Lammers

Ph: (204) 942-5049 / 1-800-557-8242

Fax: (204) 943-1735

E-mail: visionquest@mts.net

Special Thanks

Vision Quest Conferences Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization formed through partnerships with six Community Futures Development Corporations:

Cedar Lake CFDC; Dakota Ojibway CFDC; Kitayan CFDC; Northwest CFDC; North Central CFDC; and Southeast CFDC

Vision Quest would not exist without the generous support of our sponsors and we would like to acknowledge and thank the following:

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MEDIA PARTNERS

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