



Vision Quest

CONFERENCES Inc.
May 17-19, 2011 Winnipeg Convention Centre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM VISION TO REALITY: CONFERENCE CELEBRATES 15 YEARS IN 2011 May 17 to 19 at Winnipeg Convention Centre

Winnipeg, Manitoba (March 22, 2011) -- When the very first Vision Quest Conference took place in 1997, organizers hoped for longevity, but had no idea what the future would bring. Now, at 15 years old, Vision Quest is going strong, and continuing to gain momentum.

The 15th annual Vision Quest Conference will once again bring together innovators, entrepreneurs and business leaders to discuss and promote Aboriginal business, community and economic development. It is a well-respected, high quality, and well-known Conference with the desired outcome of building capacity, inspiring new initiatives, and encouraging continued success in Aboriginal communities.

More than 9,000 participants have taken part in Vision Quest over the past 14 years. Here are some of the highlights of this dynamic three-day event:

- Two acclaimed keynote speakers
- 16 workshops about business, leadership, and community
- Trade show featuring more than 80 exhibitors
- Networking and partnership opportunities
- Empowering youth program
- Culture and tradition
- Award presentations
- Opening night entertainment
- Gala banquet with special performances
- Meals and refreshments

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED

Vision Quest is proud to announce two exciting keynote speaker for 2011. Providing the opening keynote presentation on **Wednesday, May 18** is **Roberta Jamieson**, CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation. On **Thursday, May 19** the keynote speaker is Manitoba's own **Theoren Fleury**, former NHL All-Star, Stanley Cup Winner, and Olympic Gold Medalist.

'ASK THE CONSULTANT' – NEW FEATURE IN 2011

It is a priority of Vision Quest to enhance programming each year. This year, Vision Quest will offer 'Ask the Consultant', a brand new feature that will see an onsite consultant provide direction about government departments relating to business.

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OPENING NIGHT EVENT

The opening night event on Tuesday, May 17 features performing artists Plex, Leemai Lafontaine, and Sarah Podemski of The Hope Tour.

DYNAMIC YOUTH PROGRAM

Vision Quest offers a youth program, which continues to see an increased number of young delegates from Winnipeg, Manitoba and Canada attend each year. In 2010, 289 youth attended, marking an increase in youth attendance of 32% over the 2009 Conference. Youth attending this year will have the chance to participate in performing arts workshops with The Hope Tour, and youth empowerment workshops with Don Burnstick.

CONFERENCE HOTEL

This year's official Conference hotel is once again the **Place Louis Riel Suite Hotel**, located at 190 Smith Street in downtown Winnipeg. They've partnered with Vision Quest to offer special rates for delegates. Visit them at www.placelouisriel.com.

REGISTRATION & EXHIBITOR APPLICATIONS

Registration is now available online at www.vqconference.com. Register by April 8 and receive the 'Early Bird' discounted price (\$75 off!). Exhibitor applications for the trade show are also available online. With over 80 exhibitors and over 1,000 Conference participants, the trade show floor promises to be a busy place again in 2011.

ABOUT VISION QUEST

Vision Quest Conferences Inc. is a community based charitable organization formed through partnerships with six Community Futures Development Corporations (Cedar Lake CFDC, Dakota Ojibway CFDC, Kitayan CFDC, Northwest CFDC, North Central CFDC, Southeast CFDC). Vision Quest thanks the following Sponsors to date for their support: Indian & Northern Affairs Canada, Service Canada, CAHRD, Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Telecom Services, Place Louis Riel All Suite Hotel, The Winnipeg Foundation, Aboriginal Business Service Network, Assiniboine Credit Union, Boeing Canada, Manitoba Lotteries Corporation, and the Manitoba Métis Federation. Thanks also to the many Media Partners, service providers, and other supporters.

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**For more information, full conference schedule, online registration,
and exhibitor applications, visit www.vqconference.com.**

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