



Vision Quest

Conference & Trade Show

May 12-14, 2015 RBC CONVENTION CENTRE WINNIPEG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VISION QUEST CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW:

Canada's Longest Running Aboriginal Business, Community and Economic Development Conference Celebrating 19 Years in 2015

Winnipeg MB (February 25, 2015) -- The **Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show** prides itself on doing three things very well, resulting in the event's long-term success.

"Our goal is to educate, enlighten and entertain, and that's what keeps people coming back," says **Kim Bullard**, Chair of Vision Quest Conferences Inc. "Each year we put together a top-notch schedule of speakers and workshops, bring in some fantastic performers, and tie it all together with an expansive trade show. It's proving to be a winning formula that has allowed Vision Quest to have such a long and successful history."

The 19th annual Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show takes place May 12 to 14 at the RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg. Close to 1000 Conference participants will come together from throughout Manitoba and across Canada to discuss and promote Aboriginal business, community, and economic development. Vision Quest attracts a wide range of delegates such as entrepreneurs, innovators, industry leaders, community organizations, and Aboriginal youth, as well as accomplished and inspiring speakers.

TWO KEYNOTE PRESENTERS

Dr. Martin Brokenleg is co-founder of the Circle of Courage and consultant for Reclaiming Youth International, providing training worldwide for individuals who work with youth at risk. He holds a doctorate in psychology and is a graduate of the Anglican Divinity School. For 30 years, Dr. Brokenleg was a professor of Native American studies at Augustana College of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He has also been a director of The Neighborhood Youth Corps, chaplain in a correctional setting, and has extensive experience as an alcohol counselor. Dr. Brokenleg has consulted and led training programs throughout North America, New Zealand, and South Africa. He is the father of three children and an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, practicing the culture of his Lakota people.

Wab Kinew is a one-of-a-kind award-winning talent, named by Postmedia News as one of "9 Aboriginal movers and shakers you should know." He is the first Director of Indigenous Inclusion at the University of Winnipeg. In 2012, Wab hosted acclaimed CBC Television series *8th Fire*. His hip-hop has won an Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Award, and his journalism has won an Adrienne Clarkson RTNDA Award and a Gabriel Award, and was nominated for a Gemini Award. He has a BA in Economics and is a member of the Midewin. Wab inspires the young and the young-at-heart through hands on learning, artistic performance, and motivational speaking, drawing on the wisdom of the Anishinaabe elders, western education and experience as a journalist.

NEW THIS YEAR! TWO CERTIFICATION COURSES

For the first time, Vision Quest is pleased to offer certification courses as an exclusive opportunity for Conference delegates. Two courses will take place concurrently on Tuesday May 12 from 1:00pm to 8:30pm.

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Foodsafe Food Handling: Participants will learn safe food handling practices in the food industry including food borne illness, receiving and storage of foods, preparing food, serving food, and cleaning and sanitizing. The course is required in the City of Winnipeg (and soon to be required throughout Manitoba) and plays an important part in the education of food industry personnel, including operators, managers, and supervisors.

Emergency First Aid and CPR: The Lifesaving Society's Emergency First Aid (EFA or FA1) and CPR course is recognized certification by all levels of government, MB Workplace Health & Safety and most employers. Its goals are to preserve life, prevent further injury, and promote recovery. Candidates will be provided with a 90 page manual to use throughout the course and keep for future reference, and will also be given a pocket pouch which contains a protective airway barrier and latex gloves.

TRADE SHOW WITH FREE PUBLIC ADMISSION

More than 80 exhibitors will be on display at Vision Quest's Trade Show this year, representing business suppliers, service providers, hospitality groups, career opportunities, economic organizations, educational institutions, information services, and a wide selection of artists and artisans. The Trade Show offers **free public admission** on Wednesday May 13 (8:30am to 4:30pm), and Thursday May 14 (8:30am to 2:30pm).

GALA BANQUET

Vision Quest's always popular Gala Banquet takes place on closing night, and includes a three course dinner, presentation of awards for the **Dragon's Quest Business Plan Competition** and the **Steve Prince Memorial Bursary**, music by guitarist **Jason Tuesday**, a cultural presentation by **Plains Ojibway Singers and Dance Troupe**, artistry by **Jasyn Lucas**, and a headlining performance featuring **DerRic Starlight** and his down-home comedy with puppets, "Rez" style!

DELEGATE REGISTRATION & EXHIBITOR/ SPONSOR APPLICATIONS

Registration for the 2015 Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show is available online at **www.vqconference.com**. Register by the **Early Bird deadline of April 10 to save \$80**. Exhibitor and sponsor applications, and full conference schedule, are also available online.

ABOUT VISION QUEST

Vision Quest Conferences Inc. is a community based charitable organization formed through partnerships with Manitoba's five Aboriginal Community Futures Development Corporations (Cedar Lake CFDC, Dakota Ojibway CFDC, Kitayan CFDC, North Central CFDC, Southeast CFDC). Since inception, nearly 13,000 participants have taken part in Vision Quest.

Vision Quest thanks the following Sponsors to date for their support: Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada, Deloitte, South Beach Casino & Resort, The Winnipeg Foundation, Aboriginal Business Service Network, and Economic Development Winnipeg. Thanks also to the many Media Partners, service providers, and other supporters.

www.vqconference.com

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