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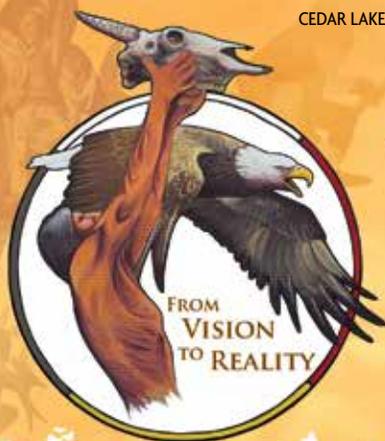
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2015

# Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show

## Message from the Vision Quest Board



*Vision Quest Board Members with Elder Mae Louise Campbell (Third from Left), (Left to Right) George Leonard, Carol Johnston, Kim Bullard, Rick Ducharme and Leann Brown.*

*We hope everyone enjoyed themselves, and we encourage you to mark your calendars for the*

**20th Annual  
Vision Quest Conference  
& Trade Show**

*May 17 to 19, 2016*

**See you then!**



As we start gearing up for our 20th anniversary conference in 2016, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on this past year. We enjoyed hosting the 19th Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show at RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg, and happy that you travelled here from across Manitoba and Canada – and even from places in the US – to share your knowledge and celebrate our successes.

Vision Quest continues to be an annual success because of you, and we are grateful for your participation. Thank you to our sponsors, media partners, speakers, presenters, delegates, exhibitors, volunteers, staff, and guests. Special thanks to our 2015 Honourary Chair E.J. Fontaine, Vision Quest Elder Mae Louise Campbell, the Manitoba Chapter of the National Aboriginal Veterans Association, and our singers, dancers, entertainers, artists, and emcees.

Thank you to everyone who took in the workshops – this year saw some of the best workshop attendance ever. We're also

grateful for everyone who exhibited at or visited the Trade Show, which saw a lot of activity. The new certification courses offered in 2015 turned out to also be very popular, with 32 Vision Quest delegates receiving certification in either First Aid/CPR or FoodSafe Foodhandling.

Next year is a very exciting milestone for Vision Quest – we turn 20 years old! We are planning some very special activities for 2016, so we hope you'll join us. Until then, please stay in touch with us on Facebook and Twitter, and watch for more announcements coming soon!

**From the Board of Directors - Vision Quest Conferences Inc.**

Kim Bullard, Dakota Ojibway CFDC

Carol Johnston, Southeast CFDC

Leann Brown, North Central CFDC

Rick Ducharme, Cedar Lake CFDC

George Leonard, Kitayan CFDC

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**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. During his keynote presentation at the 19th Vision Quest Conference, one of the messages he revealed is that, while there is a place for technology in this world, it is not meant to be every place.**

“The work of resiliency is spiritual work. It’s creating a strong spirit in a person. If you’re going to do good work with young people, you have to spend time with them. If you want kids to learn, they need face-to-face time.”

“One kind of learning we call knowledge, which is the education of a person’s mind. Schools do this okay,” he explains. “Formation is teaching the heart, and

this is something that Aboriginal cultures are very advanced at. Words can teach a person’s mind, but experiences teach a person’s heart. That is why there is protocol for everything in an Aboriginal community. And if you follow the protocols of your people, you carry the heart and spirit of your ancestors.”

“A person will forget what you say to them, but they will never forget how you make them feel. In order for a young person to feel strong, they need to know they are significant. They need to know they are competent. They need to know they have power on the inside. And they need to know their own goodness.”

Dr. Brokenleg then went on to share about the four pillars that he believes makes a person strong: belonging (feeling important and significant), mastery (feeling competent), independence (feeling self-responsible and powerful on the inside) and generosity (feeling goodness).

The most important pillar, according to Dr. Brokenleg, is the first one: “Nothing else is going to happen, until belonging happens.”

## DR. MARTIN BROKENLEG

**Wab Kinew is a one-of-a-kind award-winning talent and broadcaster. He was named by Postmedia News as one of “9 Aboriginal movers and shakers you should know,” and is the first Director of Indigenous Inclusion at the University of Winnipeg. During his keynote presentation at Vision Quest, Wab explained that he was aware at an early age just how fortunate he was.**

“I hit the jackpot when I was born. I had two exceptional parents who were so valuable and instrumental in my life. They were supportive of me growing up, and stressed the value of education. My dad instilled in me to always try harder, do it stronger, do it better. And such was my way of life.”

Kinew, who grew up in Northwestern Ontario, also credits his surroundings to inspiring success. “Lake of the Woods was

a very beautiful place to start life. I had an image that our people are strong, independent, hardworking, and love life. I never saw negative images, I only saw a strong and loving community.”

“Then I moved to Winnipeg, and realized there was another way of seeing our people. We were transformed in the media to the image of deficit, deficiency, and people who are struggling. But the truth is, we come from a community of warriors. We are strong people. This is the legacy that we have to embrace, pick up, and carry forward.”

“Fortunately, I was reminded along the way that I come from a good family, and have all the opportunity in the world. So while some of us may start out with more obstacles, you can’t tell me that the road is not open to someone like us.

And the first step is you recognizing that possibility, because self-defeating attitudes are self-fulfilling prophecies.”

“Whatever your field, you’re empowered to be leaders. Take the power and the spirit of your ancestors with you, and go out and achieve.”

## WAB KINEW



## SAVE THE DATES!

It's been another terrific year, and we're not done yet! Please save the dates for the **20th Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show** coming up May 17 to 19, 2016.

Have an idea for a speaker, entertainer or workshop you'd like to see at Vision Quest? If you do, please contact us through our website or on social media:

[www.vqconference.com](http://www.vqconference.com)



[facebook.com/VQconference](https://www.facebook.com/VQconference)



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## A YOUTH'S PERSPECTIVE

By **Maggie Moose**

My name is Maggie Moose from Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, and this year was my first time being at Vision Quest. As part of my multi-media apprenticeship with the Just TV program, it was our responsibility to come up with a quick turn-around video for the closing night Gala Banquet.

Prior to being involved with Vision Quest, I had already been to many youth conferences, so I knew what to expect. Or so I thought I did. As it turns out, Vision Quest blew my mind.

I saw youth from all over Manitoba get excited about topics like credit. Yes, credit! Now, realistically, credit and financials are areas in business that not a lot of people – especially youth – particularly enjoy. However, the workshops at Vision Quest were engaging, informative, and exciting, and the youth in attendance – myself included – felt at ease enough to enjoy them, and reach out and ask questions.



Maggie Moose

For me, the highlight of Vision Quest was the Keynote speakers. As a young adult, I've come to realize that there is a bigger picture to life than just trying to "get by." The speakers shed a lot of light on what that bigger picture is, and also brought me back to my roots, reminding me of the importance of the Anishinabe way of life.

After experiencing Vision Quest, I am walking away with a new outlook. I feel inspired and encouraged, and I have a new empowered belief that my goals and future dreams are more than just attainable. They are undoubtedly surmountable.

## Winning!

### Workshop Evaluation Draw Winner:

**Rosemary Bird**, a teacher from Nelson McIntyre Collegiate, won a soapstone sculpture by artist Jo Spence, courtesy of All Nations Print.

### Conference Evaluation Draw Winner:

**Ruby McDougall** from St. Theresa Point won airfare for two to Toronto, courtesy of Clement Travel Services.

### Banquet Door Prize Winner:

**Bob Smith**, Mayor of Incorporated Community of Cross Lake, won original artwork created during the Banquet by artist Jasyn Lucas.

### Exhibitor Evaluation Draw Winner:

**Teekca's Aboriginal Boutique** won a complimentary booth at the 20th anniversary Vision Quest in 2016.

## Award Presentations

### Vision Quest: Steve Prince Memorial Bursary

The Steve Prince Memorial Bursary is presented annually at the closing Banquet by the family of the late Steve Prince.

The award provides \$1000 to an Aboriginal student at the University of Manitoba in the I.H. Asper School of Business. The recipient chosen is one who excels academically, and demonstrates community involvement.



This year, the award went to **Alex Hosfield**.

## Dragon's Quest

The Aboriginal Business Service Network (ABSN), in partnership with Vision Quest Conferences Inc., held the Dragon's Quest Business Plan Competition. Dragon's Quest saw finalists make a live pitch to a panel of business professionals.

And the winners were...

### Urban Category Winner

Lyndon & Derrick James, owners of *Into the Blue*.



### Rural Category Winner

Tori Cordell from Thompson, Manitoba, owner of *Canine Cabin*.



*From Vision to Reality*

## EXHIBITS & EDUCATION AT THE TRADE SHOW

One of the most popular features of Vision Quest – Canada's longest running Aboriginal business, community and economic development conference – is the annual Trade Show. This year, 80 Exhibitors were on display, representing business suppliers, service providers, hospitality groups, economic organizations, educational institutions, and a wide selection of artists and artisans with one-of-a-kind creations.

There were plenty of opportunities for those who were seeking business advice, too. Many delegates took advantage of free consultations at "The Do's and Don'ts of Business" booth, and the chance to engage with knowledgeable professionals from Entrepreneurship Manitoba and Futurpreneur Canada.

Young people attending the conference found a lot of value in visiting the Trade Show. Here are a few comments from the youth delegation:

*"The Trade Show had a lot of interesting booths... the art was interesting, and the Universities and Colleges were appreciated."* – **Elmwood High School**

*"The information booths were fun and actually taught me things about my future and schooling."* – **Sargent Park School**

*"I enjoyed interacting with everyone I met and spoke to. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to experience Vision Quest."* – **Winnipeg Adult Education Centre**

*"I walked around speaking to a variety of booths and received some useful information that I can use... I had productive conversations... and will continue to develop those business relationships in fall..."* – **Argyle School**

*"The Trade Show enabled me to make an informed decision about my future educational/career goals."* – **John Taylor Collegiate**



## GOT NEWS, FEEDBACK, IDEAS??

Vision Quest wants to know your good news! If you made special connections at Vision Quest, we'd love to feature your success story on the Vision Quest website, and in our social media feeds. Please email us at [admin@vqconference.com](mailto:admin@vqconference.com).

As you know, 2016 marks the 20th anniversary of Vision Quest. If you've come to Vision Quest since the beginning, and have stories and experiences you'd like to share, please let us know. We'd love to hear from you!

## 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.



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## Special Thanks

The 19th Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show would like to say THANK YOU to the many generous Sponsors who helped make this year's events possible:

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TO ALL OF OUR  
VALUED DELEGATES!**