

PRESENTED BY:



Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show

Message from the Vision Quest Board



Vision Quest Board Members with Keynote Speaker Adam Beach (left to right):
George Leonard, Carol Johnston, Tamy Burton, Adam Beach, Kim Bullard, and Rick Ducharme

We'd like to take a moment to thank everyone – our sponsors, media partners, speakers, presenters, delegates, exhibitors, volunteers, staff, and special guests – who took part in this year's Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show. We had over 1,000 attendees from throughout Manitoba and across Canada, and it truly was a success because of you.

Vision Quest's mission is to encourage the emergence of best business practices, and celebrate success stories. It is our goal to inspire the youth delegation, who will become our leaders of tomorrow.

Please join us next year, from May 15-17, when Vision Quest turns 22! Until then, stay in touch 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
Tamy Burton, North Central CFDC
Rick Ducharme, Cedar Lake CFDC
George Leonard, Kitayan CFDC

We hope everyone enjoyed themselves, and we encourage you to mark your calendars for the
**22nd Annual
Vision Quest Conference
& Trade Show**
May 15 to 17, 2018
See you then!



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



KYLE NOBESS

Kyle Nobess is the first entrepreneur and the first innovator in his family. He knew at a young age that he wanted to be an actor, but had no one to show him the way.

"I had to accept that I was alone, and that I had no one to guide me, or mentor me. Once I accepted this – accepted who I was, and where I was at on my journey – things became easier."

Nobess always had an eagerness to learn, and knew the path he needed to take. "I was cocky when I was younger, but realized that if your mind is closed, it's easy to miss out on what's being taught. I wanted that mentorship. I wanted that guidance. So I made it my mission to learn as much as I could."

He was also willing to learn from himself. "I had to be brave enough to say there's something not working inside, and not be ashamed to ask for help when I needed it."

"My vision, my dream, is now happening, and I continue to always dream bigger. There's a lot to achieve, and it's a long and sometimes difficult journey, but it's worth it."

ADAM BEACH

Adam Beach brought the message of self-identity and ambition to Vision Quest.

"In Hollywood they call me 'The Indian'. It's who I am."

"I had to realize who I was before I could move forward. I lost both my parents at a young age, and grew up in trauma. Everybody has trauma. But in order for me to get past my trauma, I had to learn a teaching from our ancestors. I had to learn respect – respect for others, and respect for myself."

"Learning respect gave me a strong desire to want to achieve something. It gave me ambition – that's a powerful word. Write it down. Take it with you. Look at it anytime you have doubts. Don't let fears disrupt your ambition. Don't let choices destroy your ambition."

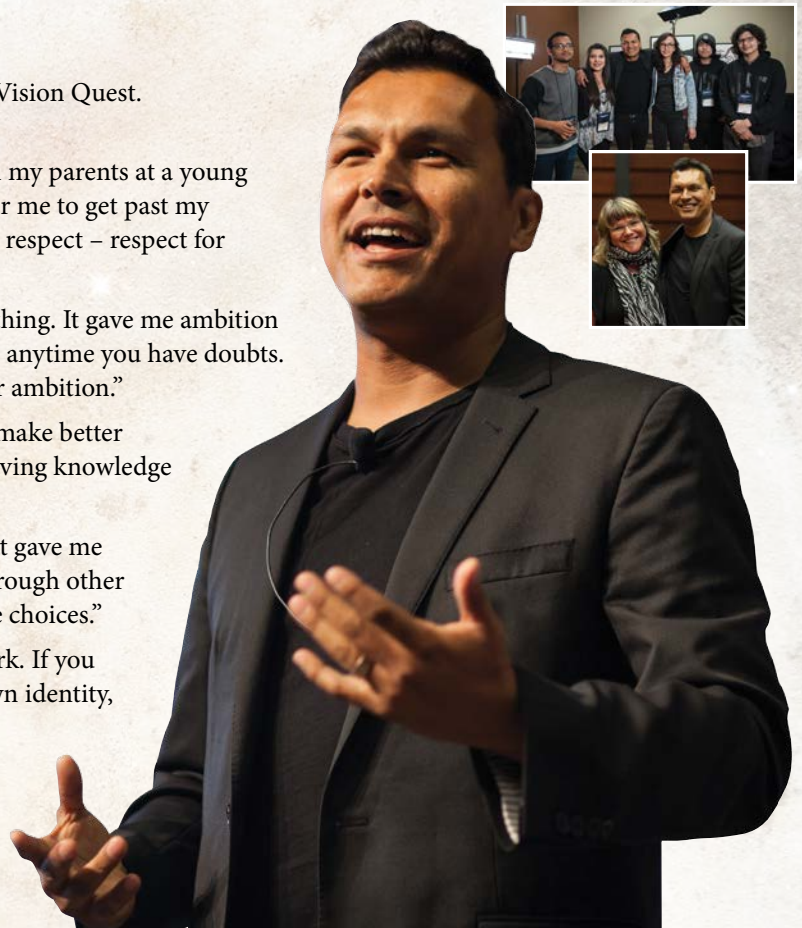
Beach credits knowledge as something that ultimately helped him make better choices. "Knowledge is power. Knowledge will change your life. Having knowledge allows you to adapt situations to your own particular life."



"Trauma is both a weakness, and strength. It gave me knowledge, and the opportunity to learn through other people's mistakes. It gave me power to make choices."

"Everything I do in my life starts with a spark. If you can find that spark within you, find your own identity, figure out what you wanna be, you can be anything you want. Just by being here, at a conference like Vision Quest, is a step toward your ambition."

"I hope you'll leave here and find your own little spark."





VISION QUEST HAS POSITIVE IMPACT ON YOUTH DELEGATION FROM NORTHERN MANITOBA

Pukatawagan Students See the Future at Vision Quest 2017

By Janice Seto

We began dozing on the seven-hour ride home, heading north from Winnipeg on Highway 6 to The Pas. What an exhausting and exhilarating time at Vision Quest our students had! On the eight-hour train from The Pas back home to Pukatawagan (Mathias Colomb Cree Nation), everyone – coordinators, students, chaperones – would be snoring.



How could attending this Indigenous Business, Community, and Economic Development Conference benefit Pukatawagan youth ranging from age 10 to high school? That is easily answered – Vision Quest immersed us into a two-day can-do atmosphere led by seasoned and budding First Nations entrepreneurs. Sakastew School resource teacher, Loretta Caribou, and her team set out a detailed itinerary of activities focused on positive role models, tailored for students seeing Winnipeg for the first time in their lives.

At the registration booth, Anne-Marie Thibert graciously welcomed us with pre-printed badges and conference schedule. The chaperones came from the Community Economic Development diploma program of the University College of the North. We visited the Trade Show, and found inspiration from emerging businesses telling us how they got to where they are. Many employers talked to us about future career opportunities. Back in Pukatawagan, UCN students are entrepreneurially writing bilingual children's books – Cree and English.



Hands-down, the hands-on activities at Art City gets our vote for making a difference. We could make our own soapstone carvings, under the eye of Dave Zachary (The Man of Stone). We also got to get autographs with Adam Beach and Kyle Nobess.

Everywhere we went, people said, "Oh, you're from Pukatawagan?" and would try to imitate Sidney Castel.

It seems everyone including APTN gave our community a shout-out. And no one says Pukatawagan quite like actor and film entrepreneur, Adam Beach – who welcomed the students from the stage, during his keynote address.

The food at the RBC Convention Centre was fantastic, as well as nutritious – with live music from First Nations entertainers and comedian Don Burnstick. The closing banquet even added dancing by the audience and we got on our feet. Thanks, Vision Quest, we can't wait to come back.

Award Presentations

VISION QUEST CONFERENCES INC. 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 Indigenous 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 was given to two recipients, both of whom are in their third year of studies:

Riley Proulx is majoring in accounting, and **Braden Turman** is pursuing a double major in marketing and international business. Congratulations to both of these inspiring youth!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DRAW WINNERS!

Conference Evaluation Draw:

\$1000 travel voucher courtesy of Clement Travel
Veronica Cameron from Swan Lake First Nation

Workshop Evaluation Draw:

Jets package (value \$500)
Nadine Berens from Berens River

Banquet Door Prize:

Painting by Patrick Ross
Karen Catellier from
Louis Riel Capital Corporation

SAVE THE DATES!

Planning for the **22nd Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show** is already in the works, and we hope you will save the dates:

May 15 -17, 2018

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 social media:

vqconference.com



@vqconference



facebook.com/vqconference

From Vision to Reality

Aboriginal Business Service Network
& Vision Quest Conferences Inc. present

Dragon's Quest

The Aboriginal Business Service Network (ABSN) in partnership with Vision Quest 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 announced at the Gala banquet.



Urban Category Winners

Michelle
Monkman
Unisex Hair Salon



Brittany
Monkman
Unisex Hair Salon



Rural Category Winner

Candace
Lipischak
Fat Daug –
Hand Carved
Antler Jewelry

Do you have a business idea?

Start preparing your business plan and pitch now, and enter next year's Dragon's Quest competition! You will find more information at the Business Service Network, and also on Vision Quest's social media pages. Follow us for all the updates!

f facebook.com/vqconference @vqconference

WIN \$5,000!

For more information, contact the ABSN coordinator:
Phone: (204) 944-8438
Email: dsmith@cfmanitoba.ca



Aboriginal Business
Service Network

Community
Futures

Special Thanks

The Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show would like to thank and acknowledge the many generous Sponsors who helped make the 2017 Vision Quest possible:

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Northern Development Canada

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THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VALUED DELEGATES!

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.

TRADE SHOW A POPULAR ATTRACTION

One of the most popular features of Vision Quest is the Trade Show, which sold out this year. On display were business suppliers, service providers, hospitality groups, economic organizations, educational institutions, and a marketplace featuring a wide selection of artists and artisans with one-of-a-kind creations.



ABOUT VISION QUEST

Vision Quest brings together innovators, entrepreneurs and business leaders to discuss and promote Indigenous business, community and economic development. At the heart of Vision Quest is the mission of supporting sustainable Indigenous economic development, and the goal of the emergence of best business practices that support and synergize community and individual development.



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