

PRESENTED BY:



Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show

Message from the Vision Quest Board



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

We hope everyone enjoyed themselves! Mark your calendars for the

23RD ANNUAL Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show
May 14 to 16, 2019
SEE YOU THEN!

As we approach our next Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show, we'd like to say thank you to everyone – our sponsors, speakers, partners, presenters, delegates, exhibitors, volunteers, and staff – who came together to make Vision Quest a success in 2018.

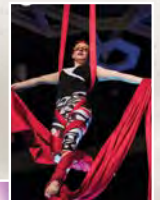
Vision Quest attracts innovators, educators, entrepreneurs and leaders to discuss and promote Indigenous business, community and economic development. Our mission is to

encourage the emergence of best business practices that support and synergize Indigenous communities, and our goal is to inspire our youth delegates, who will be our leaders of tomorrow.

Please join us in 2019 for the 23rd Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show. Until then, we hope you will stay in touch on Facebook and Twitter, and share your thoughts and ideas with us.

From the Board of Directors– Vision Quest Conferences Inc.

- Kim Bullard, Dakota Ojibway CFDC
- Carol Johnston, Southeast CFDC
- Rick Ducharme, Cedar Lake CFDC
- Tamy Burton, North Central CFDC
- George Leonard, Kitayan CFDC



Photography credit: Colin Vandenberg



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

EARL LAMBERT

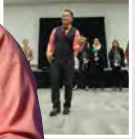
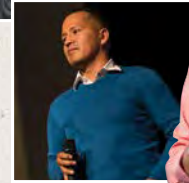
Throughout his childhood and early adolescence, Earl Lambert never created goals for his own future. Growing up in a single parent household within a small community left him marginalized with limited opportunities. “I was destined for life in a penitentiary.”

It was in a youth detention center he became fascinated with autobiographies of successful individuals. A quote from one book in particular, the story of Wayne Gretzky, stuck in his mind: “Don’t go where the puck is, go to where it’s going to go”. This changed his perspective into one of embracing change and growth, and realizing he needed to get out of his own way in order to start achieving goals.

Earl set out to shift his focus from victim to victor, learning to replace bad habits with more positive ones, and obtaining his GED within 2 ½ months in jail. After failing his first semester of university, he took the time to reflect on what it truly means to fail – deciding then and there that the only time a person fails is when they stop trying.

“There will always be a voice and spirit inside of you, telling you to dust yourself off and try again. Listening to that voice within, and embracing that voice, is what helps us grow.”

Earl has come to learn that dreams do come true for those who believe, and work hard to achieve. The main focus of any journey is not how long it takes you to complete it, but rather, that you reached your destination. “At the end of your journey, no one will remember how many times you fell. But they will remember that you never stayed down, and that you kept going.”



ANDREA MENARD

Andrea Menard knew she wanted to be an entertainer, and at one point in her life, thought it would be just handed to her. “Why? Because I’m talented. I deserve it.” But the more she learned, the more she realized she had much more to learn. “I didn’t know what my business entailed when I started out. But you know what? No one does. I was ignorant, and that’s okay.”

Realizing that she had a lot to learn about her business allowed Andrea to come up with a four-part process that anyone can benefit from. And it all started with herself.

“The first thing I had to do was own and overcome my ignorance. I had a good voice, sure, but I never knew anything about gigs, recording music, going for auditions. A good voice alone wasn’t going to get me anywhere. But I knew I was ignorant about a lot of things, and was willing to overcome it.”

The second part is about overcoming obstacles, which are often internal. “Even if you keep getting the short end of the stick, that can end the moment you shift your mindset. If you want to achieve your dream, don’t run away from rejection. Face rejection, accept it, and keep pushing forward.”

The third step is to find a mentor. “To be at the top of your industry, you need to be trained. Find someone who can help you. Don’t reinvent the wheel if you don’t need to. Learn to turn your failures into successes.”

Lastly, be true to yourself. “Learn your culture. It gives you a sense of who you are. Be humble. Submit your head to your heart. Get out of the shadows and into the light, because that’s where you belong.”





Thanks to our long-time first-class suppliers and prize donors of our 2018 Conference

CLEMENT TRAVEL



Louise Bruneau of Clement Travel loves to support Vision Quest – even if she doesn’t usually get to go herself.

“I am definitely a big fan of what Vision Quest is doing for the Indigenous community. It’s often difficult for me to attend, though, due to work constraints,” says Louise, who has been running Canada’s first 100% First Nation owned travel agency for 31 years.

“Kim Bullard first introduced me to Vision Quest, and we’ve been donating a travel prize every year for about ten years now. I think it’s worked out well for Vision Quest, and it has given us a lot of exposure, too, so we’ve been happy to have this partnership.”

ALL NATIONS PRINT



Brenda Parsons of All Nations Print first got connected to Vision Quest by chance. Little did she know that spotting a poster in a hallway would forever change her life.

“I was working as an outside sales rep for a large print corporation and as I was leaving the offices after a sales call I noticed a poster about Vision Quest taped to the wall in the hall. I ‘borrowed’ the poster, took it back to my office, showed my manager, and we agreed this would be a good network experience. That’s how I first registered to attend.”

She credits Vision Quest for inspiring her to take the step to start her own business.

“I attended that first-ever Vision Quest, and that’s where the idea of starting All Nations Print was birthed. Since then I have attended every year as a guest or as a speaker. I’ve also provided print services for the event itself,” says Brenda.

What Brenda likes best about Vision Quest today is that it’s about business, and focuses on Indigenous peoples. She believes others should attend to be inspired, to be motivated, and to meet other like-minded people. Just like she has been doing, for so many years.

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 presented to two deserving recipients:

Christopher Brown, a business student at the University of Manitoba with a double major in marketing and international business, and



Kara Thorvaldson, also pursuing a double major in marketing and international business from I.H. Asper School of Business.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DRAW WINNERS!

Exhibitor Evaluation Draw:

Complimentary 2019 Trade Show booth goes to...
Norway House Cree Nation Treaty & York Boat Days

Workshop Evaluation Draw:

\$1000 Travel Voucher courtesy of Clement Travel – Jennine Thaddeus

“His and Her” Luggage sets courtesy of All Nations Print – Lynn Bourassa

Banquet Door Prize:

Original paintings done onsite by Patrick Ross – Stephen Prince

SAVE THE DATES!

Planning for the **23rd Vision Quest**

Conference & Trade Show is underway!

Please save the dates and join us next year:

May 14 -16, 2019

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.

Indigenous Business Development Services Network
& Vision Quest Conferences Inc. present

Dragon's Quest

The Indigenous Business Service Network (IBDS) 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 Winner
Matt Nobess - Indigenous
Vitality Youth Sports Camp



Rural Category Winner
Dakota Sipie -
Sipie's Mobile Wash

Do you have a business idea?

Start preparing your business plan and pitch now, and enter next year's Dragon's Quest competition! You'll find more information at Indigenous Business Development Services, and on Vision Quest's social media pages. Follow up for all the updates!

WIN \$5,000!

contact the IBDS Coordinator:
Phone: (204) 944-8438
Website: cfmanitoba.ca/special-programs/indigenous-business-development-services



Special Thanks

Thank you to the Sponsors of our 2018 Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show!

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Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council
Long Plain First Nation
Manitoba Hydro
RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg
TakingITGlobal

Friends:
Arboc Smoke Shop and Gas Bar
Life Inc. Benefit Solutions
Pitblado Law
Yellowquill College



COMMENTS FROM A FIRST-TIME EXHIBITOR

"We enjoyed conversations with visitors from all over the province and beyond, and being from the UK, it was a lovely time getting to know everyone. The Trade Show location was terrific, with lots of natural light from the windows. By far, it was the brightest trade-show we have attended. The food at lunch was a welcome treat and so tasty – first class all the way. Overall, this was a well-prepared and professionally-run show that set the bar very high. Excellent all round. Looking forward to returning next year!"

– Iain & Caroline, Instant Imprints

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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www.vqconference.com

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF
OUR VALUED DELEGATES
AND VOLUNTEERS!**

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.