

FROM
VISION
TO
REALITY



OJIBWAY CFDC

Community Futures North Central Development
NORTH CENTRAL CFDC



SOUTHEAST CFDC

Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show

We hope everyone
enjoyed themselves!
Mark your calendars for the
**24TH ANNUAL
Vision Quest
Conference & Trade Show
May 12 to 14, 2020**



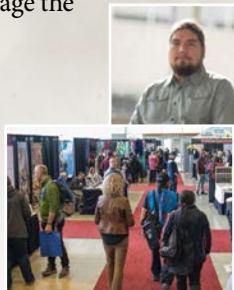
Vision Quest Board Members with Keynote Jordin Tootoo
(left to right): George Leonard, Tamy Burton, Carol Johnston, Jordin Tootoo, Kim Bullard, and Rick Ducharme

Our mission at Vision Quest is to bring together innovators, educators, entrepreneurs and leaders to discuss and promote Indigenous business, community and economic development, and encourage the

The 24th Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show is coming up May 12 to 14, 2020. Until then, we hope you will stay in touch on Facebook and Twitter, and share your comments along the way.

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

Photography credit:
Colin Vandenberg



KEYNOTES

From Vision to Reality: Keynote Messages

Jordin Tootoo brought a powerful message to Vision Quest during his keynote presentation: that anything is possible, no matter where you come from. The first step is believing in yourself, which is something that Jordin himself took a long time to learn.

"I knew I needed to change, and let go of blame. I knew I needed to forgive my parents, forgive myself, and everyone attached to my brother's death. In my heart I knew. I needed help. I needed to believe in myself," he said.

"Addiction isn't about drugs or alcohol, it's the absence of self-worth. You cannot love others when you feel empty inside. To love oneself is the beginning of recovery."

Our second keynote presenter, **Lorne Cardinal**, spoke about being prepared, and being open to learning new ways to do things. "Training has helped me my whole life. When I started acting, I made the choice to learn the craft. I made that decision to be dedicated to learning."

"You have to face your fear, and learn to communicate in new ways. Learn how to do things differently, how to do things better. It takes courage to stand up, especially after you've failed. But don't be afraid to fail – in fact, fail lots. Because that's how you learn."

Equally important is doing something you love. "Make sure that whatever it is you do, it's something that you love to do, want to do, need to do," said Lorne. "If you do something that you love, you never have to work a day in your life."



Lorne Cardinal



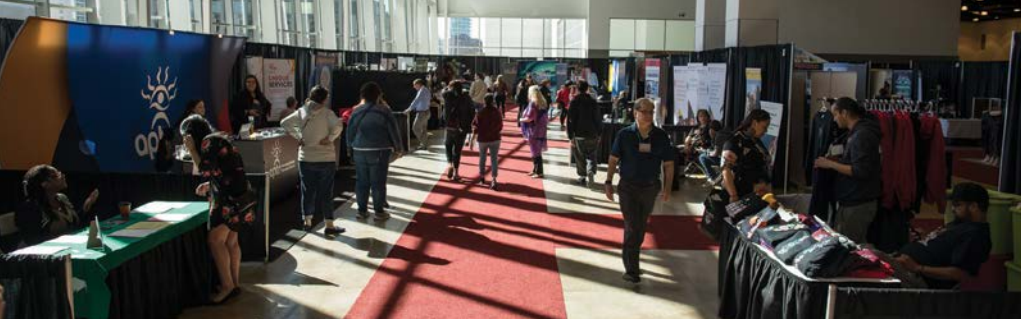
Jordin Tootoo



James Lavallée

Lunch with a Future Olympian

Champion kayaker James Lavallée represents our country on the international sporting stage, and is proud of his Métis heritage. Supported by the RBC Future Launch program, James is determined to wear Canada's colours at the 2020 Olympic Games. He brought his inspiring story and message to Vision Quest: "I believe the circle is the strongest shape, and also the most powerful. No one thing within a circle is more important than another."



COMMENTS FROM FIRST-TIME EXHIBITORS

"First Nation Focus Realty is a full service real estate brokerage offering residential and commercial property management services. I wanted to participate in Vision Quest to hear the stories of some of our successful Indigenous people, and to witness firsthand the effect those stories could have. Watching the youth in attendance become so interested in the speakers and get engaged in the workshops was a real highlight for me. My advice to anyone new to Vision Quest would be to get involved as much as you can, speak to everyone, and engage in conversations. You will learn so much and make valuable connections to reach out to on your journey of self-improvement."

– Cheryl Kretzmann, First Nation Focus Realty Inc.

"The Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneur Program is a strategic initiative of the Saskatoon Tribal Council to introduce youth (Grades 6-12) to the world of business and entrepreneurship. Attending Vision Quest gives our students the chance to hear from keynote speakers, meet and interact with influential leaders, business owners and entrepreneurs, and attend relevant and pertinent workshops. The exposure and interaction with a diverse and varied group of individuals and organizations help improve self-esteem and self-confidence, develop public speaking skills, and teaches students to take pride in who they are, and where they are from."

– Joe Taylor, Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneur Program Coordinator

STUDENT IMPRESSIONS

"Vision Quest shows how smart, resilient, inventive and unique our people are. I love seeing Indigenous people being supportive of other Indigenous people because that is what our culture is all about. Vision Quest shows the strength and resilience of our people in a positive way."

– Meg

"I learned about the differences that decisions make, and how they affect people. I learned many famous people have hard life choices they made to get to where they are."

– Justice

"I am truly grateful to get the chance and opportunity to attend Vision Quest. It taught me lots about my culture and where we are because of it."

– Caleb



Award Presentations

VISION QUEST CONFERENCES INC. STEVE PRINCE MEMORIAL BURSARY

The Steve Prince Memorial Bursary is presented annually by the family of the late Steve Prince. The award provides \$1000 to Indigenous students at University of Manitoba's I.H. Asper School of Business who excel academically, while demonstrating community involvement. It was an honour to present the bursary in 2019 to two deserving recipients.



Kailey Atkinson is a member of Sandy Bay First Nation, graduating with majors in Human Resources and Marketing, and who understands the importance of having a diverse workforce.



Lila Yarechewski is a Métis student pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce with a major in Actuarial Mathematics, who serves as a mentor and tutor to other students, and enjoys music and art in her spare time.

Congratulations to Kailey and Lila!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DRAW WINNERS!

WORKSHOP EVALUATION DRAW:

2 tickets to the Jets courtesy of All Nations Print:
Jacqueline W. (Garden Hill MB)

2 airline tickets in North America courtesy of
Clement Travel Service:
Rhianna C. (Grand Rapids MB)

BANQUET DOOR PRIZE:

Original soapstone sculpture by artist Irvin Head:
Rain B. (Split Lake MB)

SAVE THE DATES!

Join us for the **24th Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show** next year!

May 12-14, 2020

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

www.vqconference.com



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

Dragon's Quest

The Indigenous Business Service Network (ABSN) in partnership with Vision Quest presents the annual Dragon's Quest Business Plan Competition, where finalists make a live pitch to a panel of business professionals, and winners are announced at the Gala banquet. Congratulations to **Emilie McKinney**, Anishinabe Bimishimo Corporation (1st place \$7500), and **Tori Cordell**, Torilade Grooming (2nd place \$2500).



Congratulations to the 2019 Winners!

Do you have a business idea?

Start preparing your business plan and pitch now, and enter the 2020 Dragon's Quest competition! Find more information at the Business Service Network, and on our social media pages.

CONTACT

IBDS Coordinator

Phone: (204) 944-8438

Website: cfmanitoba.ca/special-programs/indigenous-business-development-services



Special Thanks

Thank you to the Sponsors of the 2019 Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show:

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THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VALUED DELEGATES AND VOLUNTEERS!

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

If you made special connections at Vision Quest, we want to feature your success story on the Vision Quest website, and social media. Email admin@vqconference.com to share your news with us.



COMMENTS FROM A DELEGATE

"I've had the opportunity to attend Vision Quest over the years and this was by far the most engaged and inspired our students have ever been. Listening to them throughout the day in regards to connecting with their culture and feeling like they were being heard was nothing short of amazing. Vision Quest allowed my students the opportunity to come together and 'unleash their potential'. Thank you for all those involved for making these few days possible."

– Andrea, Educator & Indigenous Youth Leader Program

ABOUT VISION QUEST

The Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show brings together innovators, entrepreneurs and business leaders to discuss and promote Indigenous business, community and economic development.



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