

PROGRAM



INDIGENOUS PROSPERITY FORUM

MAY 3-5, 2022 / Hilton Lac-Leamy, Gatineau, QC



reConnecting
Investing in the Return to
Indigenous Prosperity

Proudly Presented by NACCA and the Aboriginal Financial Institutions



In its third year, and after a postponed 2021 event, NACCA and the Aboriginal Financial Institutions we represent are excited to reconnect with partners and Indigenous economic stakeholders for 2022's Indigenous Prosperity Forum. We invite all First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and our partners to join us for an event we hope will help kick off the National Capital Region's return to gathering and provide an opportunity to start healing and recovering, together.

This year's theme is "reConnecting – Investing in the Return to Indigenous Prosperity" and includes discussions around the increased barriers Indigenous entrepreneurs have been experiencing, will continue to experience, and how we can continue to break down even more of them through innovative solutions that allow Indigenous entrepreneurs and economies to thrive.

NACCA CEO WELCOME

First Nations, Inuit, and Métis deserve to lead full, prosperous lives. The founders of the AFI movement knew this – and the theme of 2022's Indigenous Prosperity Forum reflects this: reConnecting – Investing in the Return to Indigenous Prosperity.

As a truly Indigenous-led network, we pursue that vision without apology. These past couple of years have been momentous. Beyond the COVID-19 relief package that we lobbied for, secured, and disbursed within a single fiscal year, we also delivered several other successes, including launching the Indigenous Growth Fund and Indigenous Women's Entrepreneur Program, despite and through a world-wide pandemic.

Indigenous businesses still need all our support as we look towards recovering together. Our lending network will continue to accompany Indigenous entrepreneurs on that path, providing the capital and care they need



to prosper. Our members are crucial links between Indigenous entrepreneurs and markets and government along the quest for economic reconciliation. Our network has been Indigenous-led and -governed from its beginnings and will never cease to be. Our network's secret is now an international best practice for Indigenous peoples around the globe. Since 2017, we have collectively brought in half a billion

dollars in capital and program funding to support Indigenous business development. Yet our work is by no means done.

The past cannot be changed – but what happens next can be. For Indigenous, by Indigenous. NACCA will seek to ensure that the network regains its historical levels of support, to deliver our capital and program funds to our client Indigenous entrepreneurs as effectively as possible.

Shannin Metatawabin

ABOUT NACCA & THE AFIs

NACCA is the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association, a not-for-profit organization, and we are a network of Aboriginal Financial Institutions (AFIs) from coast to coast to coast. AFIs serve First Nations, Inuit and Métis entrepreneurs, providing them with business loans, services and support. NACCA provides support and services to the AFIs, and we advocate on their behalf to guarantee they have the tools and resources required to ensure prosperity for our people. NACCA also administers the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program (AEP).

OUR HOSTS

We are very pleased to announce that 2022's Forum will be co-hosted by Pow Wow Pitch's Sunshine Tenasco and NACCA's own André Jetté.



Sunshine Tenasco

Sunshine Tenasco is a First Nations mommy of four funny kids from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, a social entrepreneur, and an author who believes that business is an exciting place where people can create positive change. She launched Her Braids in 2015, and is also the CEO of Pow Wow Pitch, which supports Indigenous entrepreneurs in several ways, including providing a platform to showcase their talents. Sunshine hopes to help cultivate the culture of entrepreneurship in Indigenous communities.














André Jetté

André Jetté is a member of the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation (Neyaashiinigmiing). He worked for the federal government from 1980 to 1995 before joining the private sector as an IT consultant. In 2003 he co-founded an office furniture company, serving as its President and owner for over a decade. In the spring of 2015, he returned to the IT industry by joining NACCA as our IM/IT & Facilities Manager.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

NACCA and the network of Aboriginal Financial Institutions would like to express its deepest appreciation to our Indigenous Prosperity Forum sponsors. Without their support, this forum would not be possible. We encourage forum delegates to visit the sponsor booths in the exhibit area and to consider using the sponsors' products and services in light of the contribution they are making. These companies are demonstrating valuable support. Let's show them our appreciation!

PLATINUM		GOLD		SILVER	
					
BRONZE					
DELEGATE KITS		AWARDS		GALA	
		 			
HEALTH BREAKS		 			
					

PROGRAM

TUESDAY MAY 3RD, 2022		ROOM
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	NACCA Meet and Greet	[Foyer A]
WEDNESDAY MAY 4TH, 2022		ROOM
7:30 am – 9:00 am	Registration, Breakfast, Visit Exhibitors	[Mozart Foyer/ Salon Mozart]
9:00 am – 9:40 am	Opening Ceremonies Spiritwolf Singers Forum Co-hosts: Sunshine Tenasco & André Jetté Speaker/Panelist: Claudette Commanda, Algonquin Anishinabe Elder Jean Vincent, Chair, National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA)	[Salon Mozart]
9:40 am – 10:00 am	Platinum Sponsor Address  Michael Hoffort , President and CEO, Farm Credit Canada	[Salon Mozart]
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Presentation: Conference Board of Canada on AFI Impacts The growing influence of investors looking to align investment with Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) indicators is encouraging the financial service sector to examine the social impacts of commercial lending, Aboriginal Financial Institutions included. A new Conference Board of Canada project for NACCA uses a model-based approach and case studies to explore links between AFIs' economic and social impacts. Mr. Fiser will introduce the approach taken, and present key initial findings that highlight the positive impacts AFIs are having on issues such as food security, housing, and mental wellbeing. Adam Fiser , Associate Director, The Conference Board of Canada	[Salon Mozart]
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Health Break, Visit Exhibitors	[Mozart Foyer/ Salon Mozart]
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Panel A: "Introducing the Indigenous Growth Fund" Panel A: "Introducing the Indigenous Growth Fund" Canada's newest and largest Indigenous Investment Fund, the IGF is currently capitalized at \$150M, with initial investment from the Government of Canada, the Business Development Bank of Canada, Farm Credit Canada and Export Development Canada. The IGF offers institutional and impact investors a direct vehicle to contribute to economic reconciliation and ensure that AFIs can continue to support Indigenous business clients in their communities, unlocking a pent-up loan demand for new and expanding Indigenous businesses. Together, panelists will explore the unique structure of the Indigenous Growth Fund and the barriers that were overcome to make it a reality. We will hear how a recent \$10 million dollar investment from the IGF will advance NEDC's work on Vancouver Island, and the impact IGF capital will have on their Indigenous business clients. Moderator & Panelists: Frank Busch , Founder and Chief Executive Officer, NationFUND Alison Nankivell , Senior Vice President, Fund Investments and Global Scaling, Business Development Bank of Canada Frank Richter , Managing Director, Indigenous Growth Fund Jeraldine Marshall , Director of Finance, Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation Shannin Metatawabin , Chief Executive Officer, National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association	[Salon Mozart]

WEDNESDAY MAY 4TH, 2022		ROOM
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch, Visit Exhibitors	[Mozart Foyer]
1:00 pm – 1:15 pm	Keynote Address Jenna Sudds , Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth	[Salon Mozart]
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	Panel B: “Breaking Barriers – Empowering Indigenous Women in Business” Targeted support is necessary to help Indigenous women entrepreneurs achieve their entrepreneurial dreams. Join this panel to learn about the barriers that Indigenous women are overcoming in business, new initiatives and programs to support women’s participation in business, and the importance of ensuring equitable and inclusive services and supports. Moderator & Panelists: Sunshine Tenasco , CEO & Founder, Pow Wow Pitch Helen Bobiwash , FCPA Magnolia Perron , Indigenous Women Entrepreneurship Team Lead, National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association Shannon Pestun , Co-Founder, The Finance Cafe Victoria Gagné , Business Development Specialist, Clarence Campeau Development Fund	[Salon Mozart]
2:15 pm – 3:15 pm	Panel C: Innovations in Indigenous Financing Indigenous communities and their members continue to face barriers to access of low-cost capital for diverse needs, including housing and basic community infrastructure. Too often, mainstream financial institutions view them as high-risk clients, either passing them over entirely or requiring guarantees on loans. This practice unduly limits the growth potential of both communities and individuals. What are some successful Indigenous-led, innovative solutions to attract low-cost capital? What gaps and capital needs remain? What are the best ways for government to support their work? Panelists will address these questions drawing on their experiences in a variety of sectors. Moderator & Panelists: Shannin Metatawabin , Chief Executive Officer, National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association Bobby Ahluwalia , Partner, Coeuraj Capital Dawn Madahbee-Leach , Chair, National Indigenous Economic Development Board (NIEDB) Jean Vincent , President and CEO, Aboriginal Savings Corporation of Canada Karen Kastner , Vice-President, Partnerships and Government Relations, Business Development Bank of Canada Keith Martell , President and CEO, First Nations Bank of Canada	[Salon Mozart]
3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	Health Break, Visit Exhibitors	[Mozart Foyer]
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Breakout Sessions “Growing Indigenous Businesses – Prosperity Through Export” Trade was an important contributor to Indigenous prosperity and self-sufficiency well before the arrival of the first settlers. Supported by their own unique expertise, technologies and access to resources, Nations across Turtle Island were successful traders. Treaties and a continental network of trading routes facilitated much of this trade. As modern-day Indigenous businesses and communities work to restore lost prosperity and financial sovereignty, many are looking to international trade to help achieve these goals. With Canada representing less than 2% of the global market, export markets offer good opportunities for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis companies to grow their business, and contribute to building self-sufficiency and community prosperity. However, the obstacles and challenges many Indigenous companies face are impeding access to those export opportunities.	[Julien/Gagnon/Walker]
BREAKOUT SESSION 1		

WEDNESDAY MAY 4TH, 2022**ROOM**

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

**BREAKOUT
SESSION 2**

Moderated by Export Development Canada, panelists will explore these challenges in-depth, and discuss available solutions and strategies to help Indigenous companies grow their businesses through export.

Moderator & Panelists: **Todd Evans**, EDC National Lead - Indigenous Exporters, Export Development Canada

Patrick Watson, Director, Public Policy Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business

Paul Langdon, Strategic Initiatives Officer, Ulnooweg Development Group

Robert McCubbing, Director, Global Affairs Canada

“Pandemic to Prosperity”**[Suzor-Côté]**

Over the last 2 years, Indigenous businesses have shown a high level of adaptability and innovation in response to COVID-19 challenges. Moderated by NACCA, panelists will explore how Indigenous businesses:

- Adapted and adjusted the delivery of their business products and services in the face of COVID-19 public health restrictions;
- Developed an efficient and seamless customer journey across all contact, sales and service points both virtually and in-person (e.g., physical distancing, online shopping, curbside pickup, parcel delivery, sanitization, etc.);
- Adopted new work at home strategies or new technologies to meet customer needs and employee expectations; and
- Launched new COVID-related products or services to meet the needs and demands of customers.

Moderator & Panelists: **Mark Dokis**, Special Projects, National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association

Jake Sinclair, Entrepreneur, AnyTime Fitness

Kevin Eshkawkogan, Chief Executive Officer, Indigenous Tourism Ontario

Monica Brunet, Manager - Economic Development & Community Engagement, SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation

Philip Ducharme, Vice-President, Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Prosperity Exchange Reception**[Mozart Foyer]**

6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Indigenous Prosperity Gala**[Salon Mozart]****Dinner****AFI & Indigenous Business Awards**

The Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development

Isabelle Hudon, President and CEO, Business Development Bank of Canada

Deantha Edmunds, Inuk Classical Singer



THURSDAY MAY 5TH, 2022

ROOM

7:30 am – 8:45 am	Registration, Breakfast, Visit Exhibitors	[Mozart Foyer/ Salon Mozart]
8:45 am – 8:55 am	Opening Remarks Sunshine Tenasco & André Jetté Forum Co-hosts	[Salon Mozart]
8:55 am – 9:55 am	Panel D: “Achieving Self-Reliance through Economic Growth: Exploring Indigenous Community-Owned Business” Community-owned businesses have much in common. All seek to generate revenues to benefit their communities and create jobs for their members; provide needed goods and services; honour cultural beliefs and traditions; and seek to promote economic self-determination. Building on a report commissioned by NACCA in the Fall of 2021 that profiled seven community- owned businesses across the country, this panel will explore how these businesses are supporting the self-reliance of Indigenous communities across Canada. Moderators & Panelists: Jim Bennett , Atli Chip Limited Partnership David Kobliski , Manager, Nelson House Development Corporation Sandy Wong , General Manager, Tale’awtxw Aboriginal Capital Company	
9:55 am – 10:30 am	Keynote Deputy Governor Lawrence Schembri will speak about the Bank of Canada’s journey as it seeks how best to contribute to economic reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and promote their economic inclusion and prosperity. Lawrence Schembri , Deputy Governor, Bank of Canada	[Salon Mozart]
10:30 am – 10:50 am	Keynote The Honourable Patty Hajdu , Minister of Indigenous Services and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario	[Salon Mozart]
10:50 am – 11:15 am	Health Break, Visit Exhibitors	[Mozart Foyer/ Salon Mozart]
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Panel E: Indigenous Youth – Investing in the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs Indigenous youth are the fastest growing demographic in Canada. Join this panel to hear directly from Indigenous youth business owners to learn about the types of support Indigenous youth are looking for to help them excel in business. Moderator & Panelists: Holly Atjecoutay , Futurpreneur Canada Angie Zachary , The Be•YOU•tee Bar Destinee Peter , Tangles Hair & Beauty Salon Mya Beaudry , Kokom Scrunchies	[Salon Mozart]
12:15 pm– 1:30 pm	Lunch, Visit Exhibitors	[Mozart Foyer/ Salon Mozart]
1:30 pm– 2:00 pm	Final remarks Shannin Metatawabin , Chief Executive Officer, National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association Closing Prayer Claudette Commanda , Algonquin Anishinabe Elder Prize Announcements - New iPad Air (5) must be present to win Sunshine Tenasco & André Jetté	[Salon Mozart]



CONTACT US

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