

TUESDAY MAY 6TH



6:30PM - 9:30PM NACCA Meet & Greet

Featuring LIVE MUSIC with Chief Dave Mowat Blues Trio

WEDNESDAY MAY 7TH

7:30 AM - 8:45 AM: Registration and Breakfast / Networking

8:45 AM - 9:30 AM: Opening Ceremony

Speakers:

Stan Wesley - Kahnekahnekahtahk

Spiritwolf Singers

Opening Prayer: Elder Claudette Commanda

Welcome Address: Elaine Chambers - Chair, NACCA

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM: Navigating New Paths - Building Resilient Indigenous Businesses Through Trade & Export Supply Chains

Moderator: TBD

Panelists: TBD

With recent shifts in the political landscape, Canadian businesses have been forced to consider alternative markets, suppliers and logistics. Indigenous businesses are uniquely positioned to capitalize on these opportunities thanks to development work on procurement and economic development initiatives (Australia and New Zealand) and advances made via the Indigenous Peoples Economic & Trade Cooperation Agreement (IPETCA).

This panel will explore the shifts that Indigenous businesses have made in response to economic tariffs, the proximity of Indigenous businesses to the export supply chain, the importance of Indigenous authenticity, and domestic trade strategies to strengthen the efficiency and security of the inter-provincial Canadian supply chain.

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM: Health Break, Exhibitors/Vendors

WEDNESDAY MAY 7TH



11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Lessons Learned in Community Building Through Major Projects

Moderator: Andrew Leach – Andrew Leach Consulting

Panelists: Senator Paul Prosper & TBD

Major projects have long been viewed as the key economic drivers that lead to positive and sustainable change and growth in Indigenous communities. Many Nations are now lead investors and owners of major initiatives and operations from coast to coast to coast. These projects create sustained wealth, career and capacity building opportunities, local jobs with competitive pay and benefits, and procurement and supply opportunities for small and medium sized businesses.

Organizations such as the First Nations Major Projects Coalition provide tools, capacity supports, and advice related to corporate structures and benefit sharing models. The shared learnings of these 150+ members are helping lead the development of Nations looking to regain their economic independence through major infrastructure, real estate and energy projects.

This panel will explore some of the best examples of Indigenous success in major projects and the key elements needed to advance these big, impactful ventures in a way that leads to timely and sustainable benefits for Indigenous communities.

12:00PM – 12:45 PM: Lunch, Visit Exhibitors

12:45 PM – 1:00 PM: Fireside Chat

Hosted by: BDC

1:00PM – 2:00PM: From Roots to Revenue – Scaling Indigenous Tourism

Moderator: TBD

Panelists: TBD

The Conference Board of Canada, in a study completed in 2021, indicated that at least 1,889 Indigenous businesses participate in Canada’s Indigenous tourism sector. Just over 18,000 people work in the sector’s associated industries with an estimated \$774 million in GDP.

The Indigenous tourism sector, like many others, was significantly impacted by the pandemic. In 2022, the Federal Government committed \$20M in support of the Indigenous Tourism Fund (ITF) to help the Indigenous tourism industry recover and position itself for long-term growth. Stream 2 of the ITF provided \$10M in support of a new Signature Indigenous Tourism Experiences Stream (SITES) program, announced at last year’s Prosperity Forum.

Working with a number of Provincial Indigenous Tourism Organizations, funding was provided to a handful of projects across the country supporting the scaling-up of export-ready, viable, and community-supported offerings that draw high-value tourists to Canada.

In addition to providing an overview of Canada’s Indigenous Tourism Sector, this panel will explore some of the successes achieved under the SITES program and what is needed to support other tourism operators grow their businesses and become export ready.

WEDNESDAY MAY 7TH

2:00PM – 2:30PM: Health Break, Exhibitors

2:30PM – 3:30 PM: The Future Is Indigenous – Igniting Indigenous Prosperity

Moderator: John Johnstone, CANDO (Tentative)

Panelists: Michael Mills, ADM – PSPC (Confirmed)

Sam Damm, President - Foxwise Industries (Confirmed, Feb. 19)

Mark Dokis, Founding Director - First Nations Procurement Authority (Confirmed)

Wade Griffin, Director - Indigenous Procurement BGIS (Tentative)

This procurement panel will provide an overview of the changing landscape and advances in Indigenous procurement and share best practices when procuring goods and services from Indigenous business. Indigenous procurement leaders will share strategies to ensure purchasers of Indigenous goods and services are conducting themselves in an ethical manner that contributes to the shared goal of igniting Indigenous prosperity.

3:30 PM – 3:45 PM: Looking Ahead – What’s Next for the Network

Speaker: Shannin Metatawabin, CEO - NACCA

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM: Exhibitor “Happy Hour”

Shop around the exhibitor space and support Indigenous artisans and entrepreneurs.

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM: Indigenous Prosperity Pre-Gala Reception

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM: Indigenous Prosperity Gala – Dinner, Indigenous Entertainment & IFI Awards

THURSDAY MAY 8TH



7:30 AM - 9:00 AM: Registration and Breakfast

9:00 AM - 9:05 AM: Day Two Opening Remarks

Speakers:

Stan Wesley - Kahnekahnekahtahk

9:05 AM - 10:05 AM: Indigenous Growth Fund

Moderator: TBD

Panelists: TBD

10:05 AM - 10:35 AM: Health Break, Exhibitors/Vendors

10:35 AM - 11:35 PM: Indigenous Youth Panel

Fueling Prosperity: Indigenous Youth Entrepreneurship

Moderator: TBD

Panelists: Magnolia Perron, Director of Strategy and Partnerships, NACCA

Michelle Okere, Executive Director, Indigenous Prosperity Foundation

Youth Council Member - Anthony Wingham, Co-Founder Nuez Acres , Founder Métis Print

Youth Delegate (TBD)

The Indigenous Youth Entrepreneurship Program is launching new opportunities to help support the next generation of Indigenous entrepreneurs. With the introduction of NACCA's new Indigenous Youth Entrepreneurship Program and the Indigenous Prosperity Foundation's youth initiatives, Indigenous youth entrepreneurs now have more pathways to learn, grow, and succeed. This panel will feature youth business owners and youth council members who will share their entrepreneurial journeys.

Youth entrepreneurs will reflect on their personal experiences starting businesses, the role of cultural identity in their ventures, and the skills and knowledge they've gained through various programs and initiatives. Panelists will also discuss the support systems available to them, and how new programs like NACCA's Indigenous Youth Entrepreneurship Program and the Indigenous Prosperity Foundation are helping shape a brighter future for Indigenous youth entrepreneurs across the country. Join us for an empowering conversation as youth share their stories and explore how emerging programs and partnerships can foster the success of Indigenous youth entrepreneurs in Canada.

THURSDAY MAY 8TH



11:35 AM - 12:00PM: Luminary Presentation

Speakers:

Terry Lynn Morrison , National Program Director

12:00 PM - 12:45 PM: Lunch, Exhibitors/Vendors

1:00PM - 1:30 PM: Ken Coates - Research Updates

No Canadian Prosperity Without Indigenous Prosperity

The rise, expansion and intensity of Indigenous economic activity is the most consequential and effective poverty reduction program in Canada. Indigenous business is not just business in the hands of Indigenous peoples; it is, instead, a broad, diverse and complex social enterprise designed to help First Nations, Metis and Inuit people overcome generations of oppression, racism and marginalization.

Indigenous peoples approach this work with entrepreneurial enthusiasm, business acumen, and commercial innovation, but it is driven, equally, by commitment to the land, the water and the people, a zeal for cultural renewal, and full recognition of the formidable barriers, visible and invisible, standing between Indigenous businesspeople and commercial success.

Participants will hear new research findings on Indigenous businesses in Canada and how Indigenous people are buying Canada back, one business at a time.

1:30PM - 2:00 PM: Entertainment - Michael Audette (Manitoba Metis)

National Fiddle Champion

2:00 PM - 2:15PM: Closing Ceremonies & Prizes

Speaker: Shannin Metatawabin , CEO - NACCA

Prayer: Elder Claudette Commanda