



Transforming the Indigenous Economy: Innovation, Talent and Partnerships

Delta Fredericton Hotel

Fredericton, NB - September 24 - 26, 2019

Preliminary Program

Signature Sponsor



Énergie NB Power

Updated: September 9, 2019 - Program is subject to change without notice.

Tuesday, September 24

1:30 pm	Registration Opens [Grand Ballroom Foyer]
2:00 - 4:00 pm	Angry Inuk - Come join us for an afternoon at the movies – A film, popcorn and movie - [Governor's Ballroom] In her award-winning documentary, director Alethea Arnaquq-Baril joins a new tech-savvy generation of Inuit as they campaign to challenge long-established perceptions of seal hunting. Armed with social media and their own sense of humour and justice, this group is bringing its own voice into the conversation and presenting themselves to the world as a modern people in dire need of a sustainable economy.
Sponsored by: 	
5:30 - 8:30 pm	Opening – Inclusion Festival [Delta Hotel Side Lawn and Gazebo] Join us for a unique Maritime Kitchen Party!

Wednesday, September 25

7:15 am - 4:00 pm	Registration [Grand Ballroom Foyer]
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Breakfast [Grand Ballroom Foyer]
9:00 - 9:40 am	Opening Prayer / Greetings / Welcome [Grand Ballroom ABC] Opening Prayer: Elder Maggie Paul , St. Mary's First Nation (invited) Welcome and Address - Transforming the Indigenous Economy Kelly J. Lendsay , President and Chief Executive Officer, Indigenous Works Pat Baxter , Co-Chair, Indigenous Works Board of Directors Stan Barnaby , Cando Director, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island
9:40 am - 10:30 am	Opening Plenary: The Transformation Equation - Connecting Research + Industry , Indigenous Businesses and Communities [Grand Ballroom ABC] Thought Leader: Dr. Manley Begay , Professor, Department of Applied Indigenous Studies and Department of Politics and International Affairs, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and W. A. Franke College of Business, Northern Arizona University, USA
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Health Break [Grand Ballroom Foyer]

<p>11:00 am - 12:00 pm</p>	<p>Plenary - Vision 2025: A Roadmap for Transforming the Indigenous Economy Connecting – Driving Talent, Innovation and Partnerships [Governor Ballroom AB] Big River Analytics Ltd. will present preliminary results from a research project that uses a combination of innovative qualitative and quantitative methods to explore the past, present, and future of the Indigenous economy and its level of integration with the economy in general. These results are aimed at identifying opportunities for research collaboration that support Indigenous economic development for the benefit of community well-being. Delegates will have an opportunity to respond and interact to the presentation and how their communities could take advantage of research to support community and economic well-being. Introduction: Craig Hall, Chief Operating Officer, Indigenous Works Speakers: Hannes Edinger, Economist, Big River Analytics Derek Rice, PhD, Senior Economist, Big River Analytics</p>	
<p>12:15 pm - 2:00 pm</p> <p>Panel Discussion sponsored by:</p> 	<p>Luncheon and Panel Discussion [Grand Ballroom ABC] Transforming the Indigenous Economy – Driving Talent, Innovation and Partnerships An esteemed panel explores the role that innovation, partnerships and talent will play in the growth of Indigenous employment, business and social development. The coming years are going to see a new business and economic landscape emerge with many new opportunities arising from global-wide trends and forces stemming from changing trade patterns, political and technology changes as well as fundamental changes about the expectations that people have about their futures and what that looks like. Canada and Indigenous people are compelled to navigate in an increasingly competitive and fast-changing environment which is going to require leadership, strong policies, nimble strategies and a focus on developing resilient talent. How are Indigenous people and communities preparing themselves to meet this future? What partnerships are needed to grow local Indigenous economies and increase Indigenous participation in mainstream Canadian and global economies? Do we know enough about Indigenous business and economic and social development to guide new strategies? What role will Indigenous-led research, institution-building and policy play in building this exciting new pathway to prosperity. What does transformative growth look like for Indigenous people in the coming years? Three panelists speak to these questions and themes in a stirring set of presentations and dialogue which are sure to stimulate many new ideas and creative reflection. It's about the future and now, and what needs to happen in between. Facilitator: Kelly Lendsay, President and Chief Executive Officer, Indigenous Works Thought Leaders: George Lafond, Indigenous Thought-Leader and Community Advocate L. Jane McMillan, PhD., Associate Professor, St. Francis Xavier University The Right Honourable Paul Martin, Former Prime Minister of Canada and Founder of the Martin Family Initiative</p>	
<p>2:15 pm - 3:00 pm</p> <p>Concurrent Sessions</p>	<p>Session 1 – Transformation at Work - Partnering Together to Meet Emerging Needs [Governor Ballroom AB] NB Power’s evolving power grid requires advanced smart grid technologies across the system, from power generation through delivery. NB Power is committed to safeguarding the electric grid by mitigating cyber security risks. To achieve this, talent needs be developed and acquired in this fast-growing field. NB Power together with JEDI will share how their existing partnership has created significant opportunities for Indigenous peoples trained in information technology. Speakers: Jamie Rees, Chief Security Information Officer, NB Power Ian Daly, Project Coordinator, JEDI, NB Power Indigenous Partner</p>	<p>Session 2 – Transformation at Work - Arctic Innovation [Victoria Room] Come hear from Nelson Lepine about the social and economic benefits of the Carcross Tiny Homes Housing Project and from Stephen Mooney about the needs of applied research and training and the "Northern Housing Innovation Centre" concept. Speakers: Stephen Mooney, Interim Dean Applied Science and Management Division and Director, Northern Housing Innovation, Yukon College Nelson Lepine, President, Carcross/Tagish Management Corporation</p>

<p>3:15 pm - 4:00 pm Concurrent Sessions</p>	<p>Session 3 – Transformation at Work [Governor Ballroom AB] Ulnooweg, pronounced [Ul-noo-wegg], is a Mi’kmaq word which broadly translated means: “to make Indigenous or adapt beliefs, customs, and culture of the Mi’kmaq”. Rooted within this context, Ulnooweg Development Group operates as an “Indigenized” Development Group that incorporates the perspectives of the Mi’kmaq people. Join this session and hear Christopher Googoo, Ulnooweg’s Chief Operating Officer talk about this unique Atlantic Canada Indigenous organization and their dedication to building self-sustaining, healthy communities. An eclectic mix of investments from super clusters to digital strategies, the management of a lending portfolio and the operation of a registered charity, The Ulnooweg Indigenous Communities Foundation is focused on building capacity for children and youth across sectors in education, culture and innovation. You will also hear some of the opportunities and challenges facing colleges and universities and how institutions are innovating. The focus on talent has created better student attraction and success rate but what more should be done? How can institutional researchers bring more to Indigenous communities, companies and people? Kory chairs the education committee for CiCan and will bring her tremendous insights as well as perspectives from across Canada. Speaker: Christopher Googoo, Chief Operating Officer, Ulnooweg Development Group Kory Wilson, Executive Director, British Columbia Institute of Technology</p>	<p>Session 4 - Transformation at Work - Talent [Victoria Room] Transforming Engagement for Indigenous Employment John Degiacommo is the Executive Director for the Anishinabek Employment and Training Services organization which is based in Thunder Bay serving nine First Nations in the Superior Region. It is one of 110 service delivery organizations Canada-wide funded by the federal government under its Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Program which is designed to help First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban/non-affiliated Indigenous people improve their skills and find employment, with the ultimate goal of reducing skills and employment gaps. A new ten-year funding agreement announced by ESDC in August 2019 opens up new opportunities for Indigenous employment over the next few years. John DeGiacommo provides an analysis of the current issues and opportunities he sees. The Indigenous employment strategy is launching at a time when we are seeing unprecedented changes in the workforce and workplace. Companies are facing very different changes and challenges with the advent of new technologies which are going to require new talent and skills to maintain a competitive Canada. How will innovation drive the workforce of the future? Our guest Pedro Barata, Executive Director of Canada’s new Future Skills Centre will discuss the issues and trends he sees and what they may mean for Indigenous people and their employment prospects in the coming years. Speakers: John DeGiacommo, Executive Director, Anishinabek Employment and Training Services Pedro Barata, Executive Director, Future Skills Centre (invited)</p>
<p>4:15 pm - 4:45 pm</p>	<p>Growing Indigenous Research Collaborations: University and College Perspectives [Grand Ballroom ABC] Our two panelists work with NGO 'umbrella' organizations which provide support programs and services to their respective networks of universities and colleges/institutes. Across the country and in collaboration with institutions globally, colleges and universities conduct high levels of research in many fields of specialization. Some of this research is long-term. Some of it is applied. These institutions spend millions on Canada's innovation agenda with research at its core. Many post-secondary institutions are looking to grow research collaborations with Indigenous organizations and businesses but this goal is currently far from reaching its potential. What policies and strategies are needed to stimulate more Indigenous research collaborations, to grow Indigenous research talent and to conduct research activities which increase Indigenous business and economic development and well-being? Join our panelists as they untangle the many issues that are impeding effective collaboration and leveraging opportunities more successfully. If it were possible to scale-up this research and mobilize the knowledge that is created, how could Indigenous people and Canadians benefit?</p>	

	<p>Facilitator: Kory Wilson, Executive Director, British Columbia Institute of Technology</p> <p>Speakers: Representative CiCan (invited)</p> <p>Paul Davidson, President, Universities Canada</p>
	<p><i>Free evening for participants to explore and enjoy Fredericton!</i></p>

Thursday, September 26

7:30 am - 12:00 pm	Registration [Grand Ballroom Foyer]	
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Networking Breakfast [Grand Ballroom Foyer]	
9:00 am - 10:15 am	 <p>Plenary - Towards New Innovations in the Indigenous Economy: Talent, Innovation and Partnerships Growing Research Collaborations with the Indigenous Business Community [Grand Ballroom ABC]</p> <p>Indigenous Works and Mitacs are collaborating together to develop a vision support excellence in indigenous-led innovation by developing a strategy and business plan to increase Indigenous-led research, training, education and skills, and to facilitate the development of collaborative networks and research partnerships. Learn about some of the early insights and perspectives generated by over 150 people engaged in forums and interviews.</p> <p>Speakers: Craig Hall, Chief Operating Officer, Indigenous Works Kelly Lendsay, President and Chief Executive Officer, Indigenous Works Jennifer Wilkie, Chief Financial and Human Resource Officer and Chief Privacy Officer, Mitacs</p> <p>The Role of Partners in Growing the Indigenous Economy, Talent, Innovation and Partnerships Leaders will address their role in building research partnerships to advance talent and innovation to solve business challenges to increase economic well-being.</p> <p>Partners: Christopher Googoo, Chief Operating Officer, Ulnooweg Lynn Poole-Hughes, Chief Executive Officer, JEDI Shannin Metatawabin, Chief Executive Officer, National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association Sheri Sommerville, Chief Executive Officer, Atlantic Chamber of Commerce Ray Wanuch, Executive Director, Cando</p>	
10:15 - 10:45 am	Health Break [Grand Ballroom Foyer]	
10:45 - 11:30 am	<p>Session 5 – Transformation at Work - Benchmarking Partnership [Governor Ballroom AB]</p> <p>After more than two decades of Indigenous and corporate partnerships, we still know very little about why some partnerships succeed and others fail. Specifically, why are some Indigenous communities better able to mobilize and leverage socio-economic opportunities, while other communities seem unable to respond in meaningful ways? Additionally, how might corporations and Indigenous communities better assist each other to catalyze business, employment and social development strategies so that community economies accelerate and grow?</p>	<p>Session 6 - Transformation at Work - Innovative Approaches To Inclusion [Victoria Room]</p> <p>Join the Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI) team as they share their successes in educating their industry partners on how to increase recruitment and retention of Indigenous peoples through reconciliation, how JEDI is preparing the Indigenous workforce for the opportunities in information technology, and how JEDI is helping Indigenous entrepreneurs incubate their businesses and accelerate them to the next level.</p> <p>Speakers: Ian Daley, IT Project Coordinator, JEDI</p>
Concurrent Sessions		

	<p>Indigenous Works and Mitacs’ “Benchmarking Indigenous Business and Social Development Partnership Capacities in Major Resource Projects” project aims to investigate these questions. The initial project phase explores what an expanding body of collective partnership experience reveals about the social, economic, cultural, environmental systems and structures necessary to move a given partnership from initial agreement through to implementation and maintenance. We will discuss how current partnerships provide a rich source of knowledge upon which to base a partnership benchmarking tool that can be used by Indigenous communities and corporate partners to act upon major project opportunities.</p> <p>Speakers: Shawn Corrigan, MA(DEM), CEM, Business Development Executive, Emergency Management, Calian Ltd Tanja Hoffmann, PhD., Project Lead, Benchmarking Indigenous / Non-Indigenous Employment, Business and Social Development Partnership Capacities in Major Resource Projects</p>	<p>Karen LeBlanc, Senior Project Manager, JEDI Melissa Lunney, Market Access Officer, JEDI Ashley Nash, Provincial Indigenous Employment Coordinator, JEDI Penny Polchies, Economic Development Manager, JEDI</p>
11:45 am - 1:00 pm	Luncheon - Vision 20-30: Making Transformation Work [Grand Ballroom ABC]	
	<p>Closing Plenary - Reflections on Transforming the Indigenous Economy [Grand Ballroom ABC] Kelly Poirier is an amazing graphic illustrator who will share with us a visual story of how we can grow research networks to grow community well-being. Victoria Labillois and Ridha Ben Mrad will share their thoughts on “research as a transformation driver” to increase talent, innovation and partnerships. Delegates will be engaged in a Q&A period to explore the potential impact and benefits for their organizations and communities.</p> <p>Facilitator: Kelly Lendsay, President and Chief Executive Officer, Indigenous Works Graphic Illustrator: Kelly Poirier, Principal Founder, White Raven Consulting Speakers: Ridha Ben Mrad, P.Eng., Chief Research Officer, Mitacs Victoria Labillois, President, Wejuseg Construction and Member of the National Indigenous Economic Development Board</p>	
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	<p>Wrap-Up [Grand Ballroom ABC] Kelly Lendsay, President and Chief Executive Officer, Indigenous Works Stephen Lindley, Co-Chair, Indigenous Works Board of Directors Ray Wanuch, Executive Director, Cando (invited)</p>	
2:30 pm	<p>Closing Prayer Elder Maggie Paul, St. Mary's First Nation (invited)</p>	