

AFOA Canada Conference 2006

Preliminary Conference Program

Updated: January 26, 2006

Tuesday, February 21, 2006

- 12:00 pm – 4:30 pm Exhibitor Set up
- 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm Registration
- 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Opening Reception with Exhibitors

Wednesday, February 22, 2006

- 7:30 am - 5:00 pm Registration
- 8:00 - 9:00 am Networking Breakfast / Visit the Exhibitors
- 9:00 - 9:05 am Prayer
Elmer Courchene, Resident Elder of the Assembly of First Nations
- 9:05 - 9:15 am Welcome - Conference Co-Chairs:
Stephanie Blackbird, CAFM, Finance Administration Manager, Keeseekoowenin Health & Wellness Centre
Harold Calla, CAFM, Chairman, First Nations Financial Management Board
- 9:15 – 9:30 am Greetings
Grand Chief Ron Evans, AFN Regional Chief, Manitoba
Clément Chartier, President, Métis National Council
William Lomax, Board Member, Native American Finance Officers Association
- 9:30 – 10:30 am Plenary
- 10:30 – 11:00 am Networking Break with Exhibitors

11:00 am - 12:30 pm Concurrent Workshops

Success Story Series	Workshop A - Success Stories in Housing Management Aboriginal community housing has become a focal point for media attention this past year – but that focus has been overwhelmingly negative. There are success stories to tell. This session will focus on how effective financial management strategies have resulted in enhanced housing programs in two Aboriginal communities and will also look at the Assembly of First Nations' special housing initiative. Moderator: Earl Commanda , Director of Housing and Infrastructure, Assembly of First Nations Speaker: Frank Lavalley , Executive Director, Public Works and Housing Department, Pikwakanagan First Nation
Financial Management Series	Workshop B- Investing in Your Future: Developing Trusts and Other Investment Strategies This session will focus on: various types of trusts and their purposes, alternative arrangements for funds arising from land claim settlements, the use of trust money in the context of scholarship funds and economic development initiatives, forecasting the long-term growth of funds held in a trust and long-term performance and risk of various investments and expected future returns. The session will also feature the investment management experience of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. Moderator: to be confirmed Speakers: Chief Brian LaForme , Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation Brent Poirier , Director, Institutional Portfolio Group, Scotia Cassels Investment Counsel Limited George Sirois , Manager, Scotiitrust
Healthy Workplace Series	Workshop C - Values and Ethics in the Aboriginal Workplace Values and ethics are important issues for everyone and take on a special importance for Aboriginals. This session will explore through case study situations, where Aboriginal communities and organizations have dealt with ethical challenges. It will also feature the experience of the Sakimay First Nation who has developed a code of conduct for Chief and Council. Moderator: to be confirmed Speakers: Jennifer Young , Senior Consulting Manager, Grant Thornton LLP Chief Lindsey Kequahtoway , Sakimay First Nation
Financial Management Series	Workshop D - The New First Nations Fiscal Institutions - Up and Ready to Go The four new First Nations Fiscal Institutions - the First Nations Financial Management Board, the First Nations Finance Authority; the First Nations Tax Commission and the Statistical Institute - have now been established and are up and running. What are the next steps for these institutions and how can you access their services? Speakers: Harold Calla, CAFM , Chairman, First Nations Financial Management Board Advisory Panel Deanna Hamilton , President and Chief Executive Officer, First Nations Finance Authority Manny Jules , Chairman, Indian Taxation Advisory Board

Beginners Series

Workshop E - A Session in Two Parts: How to Budget Effectively and How to Prepare for An Audit

This session will be presented in two parts - the first part will focus on preparing for an audit. It will look at the myths about auditors including their role and who the auditor actually works for, the information needs and requests auditors may have and why the auditor asks lots of questions at the start and near the end of the field work, and other key issues. The second part of the session will explore how to budget effectively with a vision in mind. It will explore a method that will move you towards budgeting in a manner that will help you achieve goals you feel are really important instead of just "getting it done" or "getting it balanced."

Moderator: Dwayne Lewis, President, Xyntax Native Systems

Speakers: Mike Zubach, Senior Manager, Meyers Norris Penny LLP

Elaine Eccleston, Consultant and Instructor, College of the Rockies

11:00 – 11:40 am Product Information Sessions

Securization

Sponsored by: AON Reed Stenhouse Inc.

Speakers: Ian Matheson and Jacques Huot

Financial Management Tools for First Nations

Sponsored by: Abenaki Associates

Speaker: Carol Ann Barnaby, Vice President, Abenaki Associates

11:45 am – 12:25 pm Product Information Sessions

Liability in Employee Benefit and Pension Plans

Sponsored by: Rice Financial

Speaker: Michelle Debroni, Rice Financial

Risk Management for First Nations

Sponsored by: AFN Insurance Brokers

Speakers: Robert Burhoe, Director, AFN Insurance Brokers
Heather Loughery, Senior Vice President, Zurich Canada

12:30 – 1:45 pm Lunch

2:00 – 3:00 pm **Defining a New Relationship Between the Government of Canada and Aboriginal Peoples**

The Treasury Board of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations are embarking on a significant and challenging initiative to enhance the accountability relationship between the Government of Canada and First Nations by: reframing the accountability relationship by involving First Nations citizens in the development of policies and programs that affect their lives; working with Aboriginal peoples to develop an Aboriginal Progress Report; improving federal practices and tools for managing programs horizontally; building capacity to achieve results-based management; streamlining government administrative processes; and, reducing the reporting burden for Aboriginal communities. In this keynote session the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat and the Assembly of First Nations will describe the program's objectives and what Aboriginals can expect to result.

Speakers: Bill Austin, Assistant Secretary, Treasury Board of Canada

Richard Jock, Chief Executive Officer, Assembly of First Nations

3:00 – 3:30 pm Networking Break with Exhibitors

3:30 – 5:00 pm Concurrent Workshops

Success Story Series	Workshop F - The Tribal Councils Investment Group of Manitoba: A Success Story Allan McLeod, President & CEO of TCIG, will be providing a detailed presentation on the story, vision and accomplishments of one of the most dynamic First Nation owned companies in Canada. The session will focus on the genesis of the company and business philosophy that has made TCIG a success and leader in the mainstream economy. The presentation will feature an overview of the TCIG companies and focus on the economic leakage from Aboriginal communities and understanding your development capacity. This is a story you will want to hear. Moderator: t.b.c. Speaker: Allan McLeod , President & CEO, Tribal Councils Investment Group of Manitoba Limited
Financial Management Series	Workshop G - Financial Reporting by First Nations - Establishing the Standards The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA), with the support of the First Nations Financial Management Board (FNMB) and AFOA, will be recommending to its Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) that CICA conduct a research study on First Nations Accounting Standards. The study will cover the changing environment for First Nations financial reporting, best practices and stakeholder and user needs. This session will provide background to this study and an overview of its objectives. Most importantly it is an important opportunity for participants to provide preliminary input into the study. Moderator: Caroline Davis , Assistant Deputy Minister, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Speaker: Nola Buhr , Associate Professor, College of Commerce, University of Saskatchewan
Aboriginal Management Series	Workshop H - Capacity Development Within Anishinabek First Nations - Success in Developing Strong Communities Over the past three years, the Union of Ontario Indians and its 42 member First Nations have been involved in a unique and rewarding Capacity Development project. The main objectives for the project have been: identifying key capacity development areas; developing relevant workshop materials and implementing sixteen successful capacity development workshops. This has produced excellent results within the communities. This session will focus on the work completed within the area of Capacity Development, including methodology, successes and the key areas that have been the focus of the workshops implemented to date. Moderator: to be confirmed Speaker: Jamie Restoule , Self-Government Project Manager, Union of Ontario Indians
Aboriginal Management Series	Workshop I - Comprehensive Community Planning – Strategies for Success The November 2005 First Ministers' Meeting resulted in commitments to make major improvements within ten years in the quality of life of Aboriginal people in Canada. Specific targets include education, housing, health and economic development. A key challenge for Canada, the provinces and territories, and First Nations governments will be to deliver tangible results on those commitments at the community level. Comprehensive community plans can provide a powerful lens to focus investments on citizen and community development. This session will provide practical information on strategies, principles and tools for comprehensive community planning. Moderator: Harold Tarbell , Lead Negotiator, Gaspé Tarbell Associates

Speakers: *The Hon. Michael Harcourt*, Chair of the Prime Minister's External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities
Patrick Kelly, Director, Strategic Planning and Communications, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Elmer Derrick, Chief Negotiator, Gitksan Treaty Society

Beginners Series

Workshop J - Successful Management Under a Remedial Management Plan

The objective of this session is to provide assistance to First Nations that are either faced with the prospect of co-management or are currently under co-management. It will explore an effective RMP that will help them to return to a solid financial position. The session will cover strategies beginning most importantly with an understanding of the current position; dealing with communication between management, council and the community; and finally assessing priorities and developing a plan that will address the community's needs and the financial constraints.

Moderator: to be confirmed

Speakers: *John MacNeil*, National First Nations Practice Leader, Grant Thornton LLP
Stephen Ashe, CAFM, Manager, Grant Thornton LLP

3:30 – 4:10 pm

Product Information Sessions

Litigation Insurance

Sponsored by: AON Reed Stenhouse Inc.

Speakers: Ian Matheson and Ron Maurice

Strategic Community Planning

Sponsored by: Abenaki Associates

Speakers: Percy Barnaby, President, Abenaki Associates

Michelle Poirier, Training Director, Abenaki Associates

4:15 – 4:55 pm

Product Information Sessions

Specialty Benefits

Sponsored by: Rice Financial

Speaker: Sean Dexter, Director, Employee Benefit Sales, Rice Financial

Loss Prevention Programs for First Nations

Sponsored by: AFN Insurance Brokers

Speakers: Sylvia Elinas, Loss Prevention Engineer, Zurich Insurance

Thursday, February 23, 2006

7:30 am – 7:00 pm

Registration

7:30 am – 8:30 am

Networking Breakfast / Visit the Exhibitors

8:30 – 8:35 am

Prayer

Elmer Courchene, Resident Elder of the Assembly of First Nations

8:35 – 10 am

Plenary

Part A - The Nisga'a Story

The Nisga'a Treaty ratified in 2000 has been described as a "symbol of hope and reconciliation between aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canadians". Edmund Wright was a key member of the Nisga'a negotiation team and has been described as the "financial genius" who represented Nisga'a in securing one of the most important agreements in the history of government/aboriginal relations. With the Nisga'a treaty now entering into its sixth year of the implementation phase, Mr. Wright is now leading the Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) is developing financial systems and regimes that provide for open and transparent administration. In this session Edmund Wright will discuss NLG's efforts in this area and other aspects of the treaty implementation.

Guest Speaker: Edmond Wright, Secretary-Treasurer, Nisga'a Lisims Government

Part B - Ushering Spirituality and Balance into our Working Lives

We all seek peace, happiness and contentment in our working lives. Elder Tobasonakut Kinew has some interesting and thought-provoking ideas on how to achieve spirituality and balance in the workplace.

Guest Speaker: Elder Tobasonakwut Kinew, Onigamiing First Nation

10:00 - 10:30 am

Networking Break / Visit the Exhibitors

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Concurrent Workshops

Success Story Series

Workshop K - The Pictou Landing First Nation Success Story

In 2004 Pictou Landing's Community Planning Project won the prestigious United Nations Habitat Diversity Award. This session will explore the Community's experience as it developed and implemented its Community Plan and discuss the importance of Community Planning to achieving community goals and objectives.

Moderator: t.b.c.

Speakers: Chief Ann Francis-Muise, Pictou Landing First Nation

Brenda Francis, Community Planner, Pictou Landing First Nation

Financial Management Series

Workshop L - Income and Commodity Tax Update

The objective of this session is to provide participants with a basic refresher of the existing tax rules applicable to individuals, corporations, First Nations, and other entities such as trusts and partnerships while also examining current trends and court decisions. The presentation will build on this base to explore opportunities and pitfalls that the current landscape presents to First Nations as they expand their business ventures.

Moderator: t.b.c.

Speakers: Vance LeCocq, Tax Partner, Grant Thornton LLP

Mark Singer, Tax Principal, Grant Thornton LLP

Healthy Workplace Series

Workshop M - Resolving Conflict with Integrity

The demographics have changed, and will continue to change as our roles become more complex and demanding. The challenge is "How do we honor diversity in our communities?" This session will provide an overview of the dispute resolution process, assessment of different styles of communication and managing conflict.

Moderator: t.b.c

Speaker: Romeo Crow Chief, CAFM, President, AFOA Alberta and AFOA Canada Board Member

Aboriginal Management Series	<p>Workshop N - Human Resources Management - Best Practices and Leadership Human Resources management can be a challenge for all Aboriginal managers. This session will focus on the experience of the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority where they have spearheaded a number of effective human resource strategies. The session will also focus on the topic of leadership as it relates to Aboriginal organizational settings. Participants will discuss how leadership is currently being defined and role-modeled in their organizations and will explore current leadership definitions and styles, as well as a model for creating holistic organizational health.</p> <p>Moderator: t.b.c Speakers: <i>Elma Shoulak</i>, Senior Vice President Human Resources, Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority <i>Angie Lafontaine</i>, Human Resources & Leadership Development, Collective Initiatives</p>
Beginners Series	<p>Workshop O - Recovering GST: The Basics Most First Nations bands have a unique exemption from certain taxes in Canada. However, they often are not aware of the extent of the GST rebates to which they are entitled and either do not file the appropriate claims or miss GST that is hidden in certain expenses. This session will discuss the types of GST rebate claims available and the processes involved in calculating, documenting, and filing the claims under Canada Revenue Agency's current policy.</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Brian Wurts</i>, Senior Manager, Indirect Tax, PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP Speaker: <i>Twila Riffel</i>, Senior Manager, Indirect Tax, PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP</p>

10:30 - 11:10 am

Product Information Sessions

Bonding for Aboriginal Contractors

Sponsored by: AON Reed Stenhouse Inc.

Speakers: Tony Eberts and Malcolm Smith

Strategic Community Planning

Sponsored by: Abenaki Associates

Speakers: Percy Barnaby, President, Abenaki Associates

Michelle Poirier, Training Director, Abenaki Associates

11:15 – 11:55 am

Product Information Sessions

Loss Prevention Programs for First Nations

Sponsored by: AFN Insurance Brokers

Speaker: *Sylvia Elinas*, Loss Prevention Engineer, Zurich Insurance

Funds Have Been Received... What do we do Now? Part 1

Sponsored by: Rice Financial

Speakers: *Steven Belchetz*, President, Chief Investment Officer, T.E. Investment Counsel

Jack Jamieson, Vice President, T.E. Investment Counsel

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Concurrent Workshops

<p>Success Story Series</p>	<p>Workshop P - The Shoal Lake #40 First Nation Success Story Shoal Lake #40 First Nation is a small community between Winnipeg and Kenora with 200 members. Under third party management in 2000 for debt management, in just one short year they successfully implemented a remedial management plan and now are self-managed and almost without debt. Today the community continues to build capacity in governance and administration. Moderator: t.b.c. Speakers: <i>Chief Irwin Redsky</i>, Shoal Lake #40 First Nation <i>Vernon Redsky</i>, Councillor, Shoal Lake #40 First Nation <i>Don Morrison</i>, Financial Advisor, Shoal Lake #40 First Nation <i>Rhonda Beauvais</i>, Funding Services Officer, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada</p>
<p>Financial Management Series</p>	<p>Workshop Q - Introducing the First Nation and Inuit Transfer Payment Project (FNITP) The First Nations and Inuit Transfer Payment Project (FNITP) is an initiative which will allow Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) to improve governance, accountability, and the transfer payments management process. The goal of the FNITP project is to build a web-enabled transfer payments management system that will provide integrated service delivery, enhanced management tools for First Nations and Inuit communities and improved accountability by providing better financial and non-financial reporting capabilities for transfer payment recipients. Moderator: t.b.c. Speakers: <i>Christian Dussault</i>, FNITP Project Manager, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada <i>Régent Allie</i>, FNITP Project Coordinator, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada</p>
<p>Healthy Workplace Series</p>	<p>Workshop R - A Focus on Healing and Reconciliation - The Residential School Settlement November 2005, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) signed a historic agreement on behalf of all residential school survivors representing what National Chief Fontaine called "the largest and most comprehensive settlement package in Canadian history". This session will provide an opportunity for participants to get information on this settlement and ask any questions they may have. Information will also be provided on how survivors can manage their settlement dollars to enable community financial managers to provide advice on these issues. Moderator: <i>Caroline Garon</i>, Chief Financial Officer, Assembly of First Nations Speaker: <i>Charlene Belleau</i>, Manager, Residential School Unit, Assembly of First Nations</p>
<p>Aboriginal Management Series</p>	<p>Workshop S - Managing by Results - A Look at Results-Based Management and Performance Reporting This workshop will present recent approaches to Result-Based Management and Accountability through the practice of Strategic and Business Planning processes. Topics to be covered by the presenters include First Nation planning models, Strategic, Business and Operational Planning processes, the Results-Based Accountability Framework, Client-focused Outcomes, Performance Measurement Framework, Integrated Management Information Systems and Performance Reporting. The presenters will share their experience and approach in applying this practice in First Nation communities. Moderator: to be confirmed Speakers: <i>Robert Breaker</i>, Breaker Consulting <i>William Wong</i>, President, WHW Performance Management Consulting Inc.</p>

Beginners Series

Workshop T - Effectively Managing Debt

Key issues for all Aboriginal communities and organizations are deficit financing and debt management. Too many First Nations are penalized for poor debt management by being put into third party management. This session will look at the best ways that communities can manage their financial affairs to avoid debt and intervention by the Government.

Moderator: t.b.c.

Speaker: *Michael Bonshour*, Visions Financial Services

1:30 – 2:10 pm

Product Information Sessions

Risk Management for First Nations

Sponsored by: AFN Insurance Brokers

Speakers: Robert Burhoe, Director, AFN Insurance Brokers
Heather Loughery, Senior Vice President, Zurich Canada

Funds Have Been Received... What do we do Now? Part 2

Sponsored by: Rice Financial

Speakers: Steven Belchetz, President, Chief Investment Officer, T.E. Investment Counsel
Jack Jamieson, Vice President, T.E. Investment Counsel

2:15 - 2:55 pm

Product Information Sessions

Life and benefits insurance for the Community/ Independant Power Production

Sponsored by: AON Reed Stenhouse Inc.

Speakers: Sandy Munro, Tom McBeath and Malcolm Smith

Financial Management Tools for First Nations

Sponsored by: Abenaki Associates

Speaker: Carol Ann Barnaby, Vice President, Abenaki Associates

3:00 – 3:30 pm

Networking Break with Exhibitors

3:30 – 4:15 pm

Closing Plenary

The Big Bear is one of Canada's favorite Aboriginal stand-up comedians and has shared the stage with some of the funniest people on the planet. He can be seen in his own comedy show on the Aboriginal People's Television Network and has appeared in several movies. This closing keynote will focus on humour and laughs - a fun way to end the proceedings!

Guest Speaker: *Gerry Barrett "Big Bear"*, Comedian

4:15 – 4:30 pm

Closing Remarks - Conference Co-Chairs: **Stephanie Blackbird, CAFM**
Harold Calla, CAFM

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Reception

6:30 – 9:00 pm

Dinner, Presentation of the AFOA-Xerox Excellence in Leadership Award and CAFM Convocation

Opening Remarks:

BDO Dunwoody

After Dinner Entertainment - **Eagle & Hawk**