



A New Journey: Connecting Aboriginal and Credit Union communities

With the support of a number of Manitoba credit unions, The Indigenous Knowledge Management Group (IKMG) will present *A New Journey — Connecting Aboriginal and Credit Union Communities*, a two-day conference scheduled for November 27 and 28 in Winnipeg at the Victoria Inn. The conference will feature a number of high-profile speakers, including Osoyoos (B.C.) Chief Clarence Louie, *Dances with Dependency* author Calvin Helin, award-winning entrepreneur David Gabriel Tuccaro, Credit Union Central of Manitoba CEO Garth Manness, and CUCM consulting economist John Loxley. A series of panel discussions led by credit union professionals and Aboriginal leaders is also on the agenda.

The first conference of its kind in Canada to bring Aboriginal and credit union communities together, "A New Journey" creates a unique opportunity for participants to expand their professional networks, learn more about sound governance practices and partnership strategies, as well as hear about the latest services and programs available through the credit union movement.

IKMG President Christian Sinclair expects a strong turnout from both the Aboriginal and credit union communities. "We've pulled together some dynamic and provocative speakers," he said. "Chief Louie likes to say 'The Band does not owe its membership dependency – it owes them opportunity,' and that's not a welcome message for some. Calvin Helin has been taking on what he calls 'the Indian industry' — the bureaucrats and consultants — for years. Our speakers are well established and respected in the world of economic development. We are excited to provide a forum and create opportunity for open dialogue between the aboriginal and credit union community in Manitoba."

"This is a tremendous opportunity for credit unions and Aboriginal people and organizations to listen and learn carefully to each other," added Dauphin Plains GM Ron Hedley, whose credit union worked closely with IKMG in developing the agenda and engaging speakers and panelists. "The credit union tradition of people helping people could make us a natural partner in bringing financial services to Aboriginal communities and enterprises as they take on an increasingly larger role in our province's prosperity."

Conference material — including agenda, registration forms and information about a unique student sponsorship opportunity for credit unions is available online at www.ikmg.biz or by calling 1-877-612-5547. Early bird rates will apply until October 31, 2007.

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Background:

About the Indigenous Knowledge Management Group

Since 2006, the Indigenous Knowledge Management Group (IKMG) has worked to provide a positive impact in our communities through the provision of indigenous world class experience and knowledge.

Owned and managed by its partners, IKMG offers a solid team of experienced Indigenous professionals, with a focus on event planning, marketing and promotion, consulting services, fundraising, cultural awareness training and the promotion of role models and motivational speakers.