



## COUNCIL ON CORPORATE ABORIGINAL RELATIONS (CCAR)



# Agenda

## Aboriginal Education and Training: The Current Context and the Role of Industry

**NOVEMBER 5 & 6, 2014**

**Meeting Location:** Rideau Club, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Main Dining Room (99 Bank Street), Ottawa ON  
**Accommodation:** Fairmont Chateau Laurier (1 Rideau Street), Ottawa ON  
**Dinner Location:** The Courtyard Restaurant: Loft Room (21 George Street), Ottawa ON

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**Meeting objectives:**

- Improve your understanding of the current state of affairs surrounding Aboriginal education, how we got here and where we are headed.
- Examine key issues regarding high school graduation rates for Aboriginal youth.
- Explore and discuss the role of industry with respect to Aboriginal education and training.
- Improve your knowledge of emerging education and training programs and practices, and examine the benefits that accrue to both Aboriginal peoples and the private sector through improvements in educational outcomes.

# COUNCIL ON CORPORATE ABORIGINAL RELATIONS

**Wednesday November 5, 2014**

**Main Dining Room - Rideau Club**

*Please meet Stefan in the hotel lobby at 7:30 am if you would like to walk to dinner with the group.*

**7:45 - 8:30 a.m.          Networking Breakfast (continental)**

**8:30 - 8:45 a.m.          Opening Prayer**

**Grandmother Irene Lindsay**

**8:45 - 9:00 a.m.          Welcome Remarks and Introductions**

**Stefan Fournier: Network Manager**

Council on Corporate Aboriginal Relations

**9:00 - 10:15 a.m.        Aboriginal Education in Canada: Past, Present and Future**

**Mark Dockstator: President**

First Nations University of Canada

The availability of dependable, quality and culturally appropriate education is a pressing and pivotal issue for many First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities across Canada. It is an issue that has implications not just for the health and well-being of Aboriginal peoples, but for the economic and social viability of the country as a whole. Yet it is also an issue that remains the subject of complexity, disagreement and debate. Mark will talk about the current context surrounding Aboriginal education in Canada and how we arrived at this point. With this context as a backdrop, he will also discuss where we are headed as well as some of the key challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

**10:15 - 10:30 a.m.        Health Break**

**10:30 - 12:00 a.m.       Perspectives from the Private Sector: Aecon and Britco's Approach to Education and Training**

**Bill Clarke, Vice President, Aboriginal Affairs**

Aecon Group Inc.

**Kareem Allam, Director, Corporate Social Responsibility and Aboriginal Relations**

Britco, LP.

The challenges of meeting the education and training needs of remote Aboriginal communities often require innovative initiatives and practices. Bill will talk about the Neskantaga Training Centre and other initiatives being pursued by Aecon that highlight the importance of effective partnerships and the adoption of strategies and technology that are tailored to the specific contexts of individual communities. Kareem will discuss Britco's First Nation literacy initiative, which is aimed at supporting literacy programs, learning activities and computer classes for both adults and children in remote communities. Bill and Kareem will also explain the value of these kinds of initiatives to their organizations in particular, and to industry more generally.

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**12:00 - 1:00 p.m.      Networking lunch**

**1:00 - 2:30 p.m.      Exploring Private Sector Approaches to Aboriginal Education, Training and Essential Skills Development: What is Working and Why? *A Facilitated Discussion***

**Willy Fournier, Vice Chair**  
Katimavik

This session will entail a facilitated discussion on private sector approaches to Aboriginal education, training and essential skills development. Through a series of questions and with the aid of the insights, experiences and perspectives of meeting participants, the session will identify initiatives and strategies that are meeting with success, and explain why they are successful. The session will revolve around the following questions: Should corporations play a bigger role in addressing the current context surrounding Aboriginal education and training, for the benefit of Aboriginal people, industry and Canadian society? And if so, how?

**2:30 - 3:00 p.m.      Networking Break**

**3:00 - 4:30 p.m.      Perspectives from the Public Sector: An Overview of Aboriginal Education and Training Programs, Policies and Lessons Learned**

**Chris Rainer, Director General, Education Branch**  
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

**James Sutherland: Director General, Aboriginal Affairs Directorate**  
Employment and Social Development Canada

Chris will look at recent Aboriginal education programs and policies, and provide an overview of associated trends and data. He will also touch on the *First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act*. James will discuss some of the key Aboriginal training and labour market programs of the last decade, including the *Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy* and the *Skills and Partnership Fund*, with an emphasis on their impacts and implications for both Aboriginal people and the private sector. Using case studies to provide context, James will also talk about pivotal successes and pitfalls, and the lessons that have been learned as a result. Both James and Chris will share some of their insights about future goals and objectives surrounding Aboriginal education and training.

**4:30 - 4:45 p.m.      Council Business**

## **The Courtyard Restaurant**

*Please meet Stefan in the hotel lobby at 6:20 pm if you would like to walk to dinner with the group.*

**6:30 p.m.              Networking Dinner**  
**The Courtyard Restaurant (21 George Street) Loft Room**

## **Thursday November 6, 2014**

### **Main Dining Room - Rideau Club**

*Please meet Stefan in the hotel lobby at 7:30 am if you would like to walk to dinner with the group.*

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**7:45 - 8:30 a.m.      Networking Breakfast – Hot Breakfast Served**

**8:30 - 9:45 a.m.      Aboriginal Educational Attainment: Why it Matters and How to Overcome Persistent Barriers**

**Don Bernosky: Vice President, Regional Workforce Development**  
Confederation College

Increasing the number of First Nation, Inuit and Métis who successfully complete grade 12 is pivotal to economic and community development and, by extension, the well-being of Aboriginal communities. Improved educational outcomes for Aboriginal peoples is also in the interest of industry, if existing and increasing labour market gaps are to be filled and local workforces developed. Don will look at some of the key issues regarding high school graduation rates and the importance of Aboriginal educational attainment to private sector interests. Using Confederation College's innovative programs, approaches and partnerships as a backdrop, Don will also revisit and link the core themes and topics addressed throughout the meeting.

**9:45 - 10:00 a.m.      Networking Break**

**10:00 - 11:00 a.m.      Legal Update**

**Sandra Gogal, Partner, Miller-Thomson LLP**

Sandra Gogal will provide her regular legal update. She will discuss current court cases and legal developments that are shaping the future of Aboriginal relations.

**11:00 - 11:45 a.m.      Roundtable Discussion**

**11:45 - 11:55 p.m.      Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Next meeting: May 5-6, 2015**

**Location: TBC, Suggestion: Whitehorse, YK**