

A COMMUNITY FUTURES  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
INITIATIVE PRESENTED BY



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# Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show

PROMOTING INDIGENOUS BUSINESS,  
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

May 14 & 15, 2025 RBC CONVENTION  
CENTRE WINNIPEG



KEYNOTE

*Katarina Ziervogel*

ACTOR, WRITER



KEYNOTE

*Ashley Callingbull*

ACTOR, MODEL, ACTIVIST



BANQUET  
ENTERTAINMENT

ACTOR/COMEDIAN

*Paul Rabliauskas*

**PLUS** ILA BARKER,  
NOTORIOUS CREE  
AND NORMAN CHIEF  
MEMORIAL DANCERS

CONNECT WITH 1500+ PARTICIPANTS THROUGH:

- ◆ PRE-CONFERENCE COURSES
- ◆ 14 INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS
- ◆ CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS AND SHARING WITH ELDERS
- ◆ OVER 100 TRADE SHOW EXHIBITS
- ◆ NETWORKING & BUSINESS ADVICE OPPORTUNITIES
- ◆ DRAGON'S QUEST BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION
- ◆ CELEBRATION BANQUET

## DELEGATE REGISTRATION GUIDE



Vision Quest Conferences Inc. is a  
registered charitable organization.

## REGISTER ONLINE [VQCONFERENCE.COM](https://vqconference.com)

FOR REGISTRATION INQUIRES CONTACT: [REGISTRATION@VQCONFERENCE.COM](mailto:REGISTRATION@VQCONFERENCE.COM)

GENERAL INQUIRIES: [ADMIN@VQCONFERENCE.COM](mailto:ADMIN@VQCONFERENCE.COM) | 1-800-557-8242 ♦ 204-942-5049

# Connect with 1500+ participants at one of Canada's longest running Indigenous conferences!

Vision Quest is an Indigenous business, community and economic development Conference and Trade Show, providing engaging information, encouragement, and enlightenment with custom programming for Indigenous businesses and entrepreneurs, youth, community leaders and organizations, and the public-at-large.

As a registered charitable organization, Vision Quest is presented by five Manitoba Indigenous Community Futures Development Corporations. The Vision of Vision Quest is to create sustainable Indigenous communities that are filled with engaged citizens, knowledgeable community leaders, successful businesses, empowered youth, and proud cultural traditions.

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

- ◆ Two high profile, motivational keynote presentations with opportunity to interact during the Question & Answer session following each keynote presentation
- ◆ 14 workshops in four categories: Business, Community/Personal Development, Cultural Awareness and Youth
- ◆ Cultural presentations and award-winning entertainment
- ◆ Announcements of Dragon's Quest Business Plan Competition award, Steve Prince Memorial Bursary and Kim Bullard Memorial Bursary recipients
- ◆ Eligibility for Prize Draws
- ◆ Opportunity to register for Pre-Conference Courses and to purchase Banquet tickets

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Indigenous Business Owners and Operators ◆ Indigenous Youth ◆ Community Leaders ◆ Economic Development Officers ◆ Educators (teachers and administrators) ◆ Investors and Financial Institutions ◆ Government and Corporate Representatives ◆ Business and Community Service Providers ◆ Those interested in doing business with Indigenous communities

## OFFICIAL HOST HOTEL

**Delta Hotels by Marriott Winnipeg** is our host hotel for Vision Quest. Located at 350 St. Mary Avenue, the hotel is right next door to the RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg and is connected via indoor skywalk. To receive the special Conference rate of \$219.00 (single or double occupancy), you must reserve your room by **APRIL 25, 2025**. After that date, reservations at the Conference rate will be based upon availability. To book online visit [vqconference.com/conference/venue-hotel-and-travel/](http://vqconference.com/conference/venue-hotel-and-travel/) or call **1-800-268-1133** under **VISION QUEST** at **The Delta Winnipeg**.

## OFFICIAL AIRLINE

Vision Quest is pleased to welcome **Calm Air** as our official Conference airline. Calm Air is offering 60% off Calm Air's HFLEX branded public fare for representatives and delegates of Vision Quest 2025. To be eligible, you must book your travel between April 14/25 to May 9/25 and travel between May 10/25 to May 19/25.

Reservations can be made three ways using the promo code **VISION25QUEST**:

1. **Email [reservations@calmair.com](mailto:reservations@calmair.com)** with your travel requirements and and promo code
2. **Call Toll-free 1-800-839-2256**. Identify yourself as part of **Vision Quest 2025** and use the promo code to access your special rate.
3. **Book online at [www.calmair.com](http://www.calmair.com)** using the promo code

## BANQUET

Join us for our Banquet, taking place the first evening of the Conference on May 14, which includes: a three-course dinner, awards and cultural presentations, entertainment by **Ila Barker**, **Norman Chief Memorial Dancers**, hip hop hoops of **Notorious Cree**, and featured renowned actor/comedian **Paul Rabliauskas**. *Please see ticket pricing on back page.*

## PRE-CONFERENCE COURSES

### TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Vision Quest is pleased to kick off this year's Conference with TWO Pre-Conference Courses, exclusive to Conference delegates only. Refreshments provided. Participants must be a minimum of 16 years of age and must bring photo I.D. to check in. Participants will receive a certificate of completion.

#### COURSE A:

##### CHAIRING A NON-PROFIT BOARD

*Jason Denbow,  
Community Futures Leadership Institute*

The chair plays an important role in a non-profit organization. The chair's roles and responsibilities as they relate to the public, stakeholders, partners, funders, the corporation, board members and staff is examined. Participants will:

- ◆ Learn how to approach the role of chair with skill and confidence;
- ◆ Understand the roles and responsibilities associated with the chair's position;
- ◆ Discuss the specific skills required to be a chair; and
- ◆ Examine how to support their chair and work together as a strong team.

#### COURSE B:

##### EXPLORING INDIGENOUS TOURISM FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

*Doreen Booth,  
Indigenous Tourism Manitoba*

Indigenous Tourism Manitoba exists to support and foster Indigenous tourism in Manitoba. Indigenous tourism is experiencing significant growth and demand from travellers. Manitoba's diverse landscape and Indigenous cultures lay the foundation to enhance unique world-class experiences! We will explore the history, development, and future for Indigenous tourism in the province.

For Exhibitor and Sponsorship Opportunities visit [vqconference.com](http://vqconference.com), please call **1-800-557-8242** or **204-942-5049** or email [coordinator@vqconference.com](mailto:coordinator@vqconference.com)

# Conference Overview

AT JANUARY 9 /2025

Schedule subject to change.

TUESDAY, MAY 13	
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Check in for Pre-Conference Courses & Information Desk
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<b>PRE-CONFERENCE COURSES*</b> (2 Options): <b>A. Chairing a Non-Profit Board</b> Jason Denbow, Community Futures Leadership Institute <b>B. Exploring Indigenous Tourism for your Community</b> Doreen Booth, Indigenous Tourism Manitoba
4:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Delegate Registration/Check In
WEDNESDAY, MAY 14	
8:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Delegate Registration/Check In
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM	<b>TRADE SHOW</b> – Free Admission For Public Attendance
8:30 AM - 9:15 AM	Continental Breakfast
9:15 AM - 11:30 AM	<b>OPENING CEREMONIES / KEYNOTE SPEAKER:</b> <b>KATARINA ZIERVOGEL</b> Sagkeeng First Nation, Actor - Disney+ series <i>Echo</i>
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Trade Show Visiting
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM – 2:45 PM	<b>WORKSHOP SESSIONS #1</b> – 4 Options <b>1. Inspiring Indigenous Business Leaders</b> <i>Christian Sinclair, First Nation Economic Strategic Planner and Negotiator; Alyssia Sutherland, Ally's Ribbons; Destiny Seymour, Indigo Arrows; Grand Chief Garrison Settee, MKO</i> <b>2. Roots of Wellness; Traditional Indigenous Healing Sources</b> <i>Dana Connolly, Mashkiki Garden Creations</i> <b>3. You're Going to Make It! Hands-on Building, Assembly and Manufacturing</b> <i>Canadian Manufacturers &amp; Exporters</i> <b>4. Dragon's Quest Business Plan Finalists' Presentations</b>
2:45 PM - 3:15 PM	Refreshment Break on Trade Show Floor
3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	<b>WORKSHOP SESSIONS #2</b> – 4 Options <b>1. Tax Topics for First Nation Businesses</b> Shona Fraser, Canada Revenue Agency <b>2. Empowering Indigenous Economies; Strategic Planning for Sustainable Growth</b> <i>Eliyiah Deewan &amp; Sara U, Catalyste+</i> <b>3. Experience The Tradition of Pow Wow</b> Singing Wolf & Dancers <b>4. Making Your Own Music – Skills of Songwriting</b> <i>Ila Barker, RBC First Up and Andrina Turenne, Juno Award-Winner</i>
5:30 PM - 9:00 PM	<b>BANQUET*</b> : Three Course Dinner, Awards & Cultural Presentations Featuring: Ila Barker, Norman Chief Memorial Dancers, Notorious Cree and Actor/Comedian <b>PAUL RABLIAUSKAS</b>
THURSDAY, MAY 15	
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Registration & Information
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM	<b>TRADE SHOW</b> – Free Admission For Public Attendance
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Continental Breakfast with entertainment by Oliver Boulette & Gerry McIvor
9:30 AM - 10:45 AM	<b>WORKSHOP SESSIONS #3</b> – 3 Options <b>1. Build A Better Business – Business Planning Module</b> <i>Michelle Pruder, Community Futures North Central Development</i> <b>2. First Nation Youth Transforming Housing and Post-Secondary Education Systems</b> <i>Dr. Shirley Thompson, University of Manitoba</i> <b>3. Heyyyyy Guys...TikTok Talk</b> Sherry McKay, Comedian, Storyteller, Content Creator
10:45 AM - 11:30 AM	Refreshment Break/Trade Show Visiting
11:30 AM - 12:45 AM	<b>WORKSHOP SESSIONS #4</b> – 3 Options <b>1. Sharing Our Stories - Indigenous Women Entrepreneurs Podcast Recording</b> <i>Michelle Pruder, Community Futures North Central Development and Guests</i> <b>2. Looking at the Stars; An Indigenous Perspective</b> <i>Wilfred Buck, Indigenous Astronomer &amp; Consultant, Author, Educator</i> <b>3. PowwowFIT</b> Notorious Cree (James Jones)
12:45 AM - 2:00 PM	Lunch & Draws
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	<b>KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ASHLEY CALLINGBULL</b> Actor, Model, Activist
3:00 PM -3:30 PM	Trade Show Visiting/Autographs with Keynote
4:00 PM	<b>TRADE SHOW CLOSES</b>

## Registration/Info Desk & Trade Show Hours

### CHECK IN FOR PRECONFERENCE COURSES

**TUESDAY, MAY 13**  
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

### REGISTRATION & INFO DESK

**TUESDAY, MAY 13**  
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 14**  
8:00 AM - 7:00 PM

**THURSDAY, MAY 15**  
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

### TRADE SHOW FREE PUBLIC ADMISSION

**MAY 14 & 15**  
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

\***ADDITIONAL COST. NOT INCLUDED** IN DELEGATE REGISTRATION FEE

Check the Vision Quest website for updates on workshop presentations.

Selections will be made on-site on a first-come, first-served basis.



\***ADDITIONAL COST;** not included in Delegate Registration Fee

For more information, or to register online visit **VQCONFERENCE.COM**

FOR REGISTRATION INQUIRES CONTACT: [REGISTRATION@VQCONFERENCE.COM](mailto:REGISTRATION@VQCONFERENCE.COM)

GENERAL INQUIRIES: [ADMIN@VQCONFERENCE.COM](mailto:ADMIN@VQCONFERENCE.COM) OR CALL 1-800-557-8242 OR 204-942-5049



Vision Quest Conferences Inc. welcomes all participants and is committed to creating an environment that promotes open-mindedness, respect, as well as physical and emotional safety.

Everyone who attends the Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show has the right to feel safe and included.

# Conference Fees 2025

## **PRE-CONFERENCE COURSES\*** (VISION QUEST DELEGATES ELIGIBLE ONLY)

Includes afternoon refreshments. Must be 16 years of age or older.

**TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

\$130.00 per delegate/course

### **COURSE A: CHAIRING A NON-PROFIT BOARD**

*Jason Denbow, Community Futures Leadership Institute*

### **COURSE B: EXPLORING INDIGENOUS TOURISM FOR YOUR COMMUNITY**

*Holly Courchene & Doreen Booth, Indigenous Tourism Manitoba*

## **REGISTRATION FEES**

Includes all plenary and workshop sessions, continental breakfasts, lunches, refreshment breaks, and access to Trade Show.

**EARLY BIRD** (APPLIES ONLY TO PAYMENTS RECEIVED BY **APRIL 11, 2025**)

\$650.00 per delegate

**REGULAR RATE**

\$775.00 per delegate

**YOUTH/STUDENT RATE** (PROOF OF AGE OR STUDENT ID REQUIRED)

\$315.00 per delegate

## **BANQUET TICKETS\***

\$95.00 per delegate

\* Additional cost. Not included in Delegate Registration Fee.

**REGISTER ONLINE AT**

**VQCONFERENCE.COM**

FOR IMMEDIATE CONFIRMATION OF YOUR DELEGATE REGISTRATION(S).

For registration inquiries email [registration@vqconference.com](mailto:registration@vqconference.com).

For general inquiries email [admin@vqconference.com](mailto:admin@vqconference.com) or call 1-800-557-8242 or 204-942-5049.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Upon submission of the registration form, you are committing to paying the delegate registration(s) in full, regardless of attendance at Vision Quest 2025. As well, all delegates acknowledge that they may be photographed or videotaped at the Conference for promotional purposes either in print or on-line. Should delegates wish to refuse permission for the use of their images, they must register this request with the Manager of Registration Services upon arrival at the Convention Centre.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cancellations received in writing prior to April 26, 2025 will be refunded the full amount less a \$50.00 administrative fee. Cancellations received after April 26, 2025 are non-refundable. If you are unable to attend, we encourage you to find an alternate registrant as a replacement. Changes to your registration name must be received in writing by April 26, 2025. No refunds will be provided to registrants who do not attend the Conference without prior written notification of cancellation by April 26, 2025. Registrants who do not attend the Conference without prior cancellation notification and who have not paid in full, will be invoiced for the full registration. Where registrations are cancelled on compassionate grounds, the refund will be at the discretion of the Vision Quest Board of Directors.

