

ABORIGINAL BUSINESS

A JOINT VENTURE WITH CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR ABORIGINAL BUSINESS



CCAB president JP Gladu says the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame serves as an inspiration and a roadmap to success for the younger generation of budding entrepreneurs.

Honouring trailblazers

Canada's Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame was created to honour trailblazers and pioneers in business. But over time it has also become a showcase of the economic potential of this rapidly growing part of the Canadian fabric.

The ABHF honours those who struggled to establish companies or employment opportunities in times when the efforts of aboriginal people to develop economic self-sufficiency often encountered closed minds and closed doors.

About one Canadian in 30 considers themselves an aboriginal — First Nations, Métis or Inuit.

It's a sizable pool of increasingly successful entrepreneurs and potential employees ready

to fill skilled jobs in every sector of the economy.

The ABHF is part of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB), the 1984 brainchild of Murray Koffler, the founder of Shoppers Drug Mart and co-founder of Four Seasons Hotels.

Mr. Koffler recognized there was a role for business, governments and aboriginal leaders to encourage and mentor economic development for aboriginal people.

One reason that role is growing today is because of bridges built between aboriginal communities and the business world.

Erin Meehan, president of ESS North America and co-chair of the CCAB board of directors, says corporations are beginning to realize they can be

successful by operating as partners with aboriginal people.

"We see companies starting to get it," Ms. Meehan says.

"The good news is that industry is beginning to understand that it isn't just about going onto aboriginal land and doing things. It's about forming real partnerships, building capacity."

The purpose of the ABHF, Ms. Meehan says, is about more than just being a place to honour achievements.

"It is important that we recognize the entrepreneurial

spirit that exists in every single aboriginal community," Ms. Meehan says.

"One of the things that we completely miss is the ingenuity that exists in these communities. The fact that a community of 100 people could be completely self-sufficient for hundreds of years has to mean that there are lessons for us to learn."

JP Gladu, president and CEO of the CCAB, says the ABHF is a place where young aboriginals can find inspiration and a path to success.

It is important that we recognize the entrepreneurial spirit

"It is important to showcase the great things that aboriginal people do," he said. "These individuals are high profile folks that other aboriginal people can aspire to as far as business goes or think of as mentors."

This year's inductees to the ABHF are former B.C. chief C.T. (Manny) Jules, a controversial figure known for his willingness to take a stand for his community, and Jim Thunder, known for many achievements in business at his Buffalo Point First Nation.

"(Jules) is highly visionary, politically charged ... willing to take a stand and to really push a cause," said Ms. Meehan. "We thought that was something that was honourable and noble, especially in the amount of adversity he has faced for taking a stand."

"Jim Thunder is the epitome of a lifetime achievement award winner. He has a tangible lifetime of achievements, some of them very big and some of them very small. But all of them take you down a path that fundamentally changed the community he comes from."

These leaders' achievements and the potential of aboriginal communities today is recognized by many non-aboriginal businesses. Some of the improving relationships between them are being developed through programs offered by the CCAB. Programs such as Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) help mainstream businesses get the tools they need to work with communities as partners. CCAB subsequently helps them measure their successes.

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Hall of Fame recognizes cultural contributors

THE INDUCTEES

The Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame recognizes aboriginal persons whose business leadership has made a significant contribution to the economic and social well being of aboriginal people. They are chosen from across Canada and represent Métis, Inuit, and First Nations.

The newest laureates, being honoured Feb. 5 at a gala in Toronto, are C.T. (Manny) Jules, chief commissioner and

CEO of the First Nations Tax Commission, and Jim Thunder from Buffalo Point First Nation.

"It is important amongst our own aboriginal people to recognize the efforts of lifetime achievers like Manny and Jim and the work that they have done for their communities and first nations," says JP Gladu, president and CEO of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business.

Chief C.T. (Manny) Jules has dedicated his life to the better-

ment of First Nations. He is well known for his long and successful career as an elected leader of the Kamloops Indian Band in British Columbia. Mr. Jules retired as Chief in December of 2000 to lead the drive to establish First Nations fiscal institutions. He received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1997 and another from Thompson Rivers University in 2006. In September 2009, he was presented with the Order of British Columbia, the province's highest honour for

outstanding achievement.

Chief Jim Thunder held the role of hereditary Chief of Buffalo Point First Nation from 1967 to 1997. He directed the implementation of a long-term economic development plan for his community. With the creation of two cottage subdivisions and the Buffalo Bay Marina and Campground, Buffalo Point First Nation established itself as a world-class vacation destination. Mr. Thunder's commitment goes beyond the economic oppor-



Manny Jules



Jim Thunder

tunities for current community members. His vision has helped ensure long-term

economic success for Buffalo Point First Nation.

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Aboriginal Business HALL OF FAME

Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business

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On February 5, 2013, C.T. Manny Jules, Kamloops, BC and Jim Thunder, Buffalo Point First Nations, MB will be inducted into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame (ABHF) as the 2013 Laureates at the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business' 15th Annual Toronto Gala.

The ABHF recognizes Aboriginal persons whose business leadership and commitment to community has made a substantive contribution to the economic and social well-being of Aboriginal people and communities. Laureates are from across Canada and represent Métis, Inuit, and First Nations people.

15th Annual Toronto Gala

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16th Annual Toronto Gala February 4, 2014 www.ccab.com