



Media Release

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Fort McKay First Nation named as recipient of 2018 CCAB award celebrating Aboriginal Economic Development in Canada

Toronto, ON – March 14, 2018 - The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) and Sodexo Canada are pleased to announce Fort McKay First Nation (FMFN) Fort McKay Group of Companies (FMGOC) as the recipient of the CCAB 2018 Aboriginal Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) of the Year Award. **The award will be presented at CCAB's Annual Calgary Gala on May 10, 2018 at the Westin Calgary.**

“After more than 30 years of successful partnerships with industry, it is an honour and privilege to be recognized with this award. I am grateful to the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business and Sodexo Canada for understanding the importance of Indigenous collaboration on industry projects. It is collaboration, as well as the work of our staff and management, that has led to nearly zero unemployment and unprecedented economic success in our community. We look forward to continuing making progress by fostering existing relationships and seeking new opportunities.”

-Chief Jim Boucher, Fort McKay

Given its geographic location, Fort McKay has championed many opportunities to work with the forestry, oil sands, and pipeline industries in Alberta. Over time, they became known for their commitment to establishing and maintaining positive partnerships with surrounding industry while still preserving their cultural values

FMFN made its first major foray into business in 1986 when it established the Fort McKay Group of Companies (FMGOC), which is fully owned and operated by the Fort McKay First Nation. In addition to this FMFN has also established numerous joint venture companies. It is this progressive collaboration that continues to contribute to a legacy of pride and promises a brighter future for generations to come.

By forming constructive partnerships, Fort McKay First Nation is able to implement the necessary framework to support progressive economic, industrial, and social developments in the region.

CCAB would like to recognize and thank Sodexo Canada the founding and exclusive sponsor for the Aboriginal Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) of the Year Award.

“Fort McKay First Nation (FMFN) Fort McKay Group of Companies (FMGOC) under the extraordinary leadership of Chief Jim Boucher for over 30 years has led a remarkable economic and social transformation for their community and valued partnerships. The prosperity that FMGOC has fueled is a model that CCAB is honoured to celebrate as the 2018 Aboriginal Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) recipient. Their innovation and willingness to explore diverse business enterprises has placed FMFN in a league of its own. Congratulations.” – JP Gladu, President & CEO, CCAB

Sodexo is proud to be celebrated as one of the top diversity employers in Canada and a Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) Gold Certified company. Quality of life is central to the performance and growth of individuals and organizations. Working from this perspective, Sodexo has redefined how to best serve its clients' complex needs. It is dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals and organizations wherever they work.

"We congratulate Chief Jim Boucher and his team at Fort McKay First Nation. They have created prosperity through partnerships within and beyond their community," said Katherine Power, Vice President Communications and Corporate Affairs, Sodexo Canada, founding and exclusive sponsor of the Aboriginal Economic Development Corporation of the Year Award. ***"These collaborations are key to building infrastructure. We strongly believe that when our Indigenous communities succeed, so do the rest of our country. We are excited to follow the progress at Fort McKay."***

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About the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB):

CCAB is committed to the full participation of Aboriginal people in Canada's economy. A national non-profit, non-partisan association, CCAB offers knowledge, resources, and programs to both mainstream and Aboriginal owned companies that foster economic opportunities for Aboriginal people and businesses across Canada.

About Sodexo:

Sodexo has been delivering on-site services in Canada for over 40 years. Recognized as a strategic partner, Sodexo Canada has consolidated its position by providing a range of Quality of Life services for clients, their employees and visitors in the corporate, education, healthcare and remote site segments. Delivering food and facilities management services for over 200 clients, Sodexo is a market leader in terms of revenue and customers served, and has been recognized as a top employer for the past four consecutive years. Sodexo Canada is proud to have created the Sodexo Foundation, an independent charitable organization that has donated more than 1 million meals to at risk youth in Canada since it was founded in 2000. For more information:

For more information on this event go to: www.ccab.com/2018-annual-calgary-gala/

For more information on the Fort McKay First Nation, go to: www.fortmckay.com

For more information on Sodexo, go to: <http://ca.sodexo.com/home.html>

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