



## Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | Wednesday August 9, 2017

### Canadian Historian Dr. Ken Coates named as recipient of CCAB's 2017 Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Relations

**TORONTO — August 9, 2017** — The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) is proud to announce Dr. Ken Coates as the recipient of the 2017 Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Relations. Dr. Coates is being honoured for his deep understanding of past and present realities surrounding Indigenous peoples, together with his compelling ideas about Canada's future.

***"Ken Coates is truly an outstanding advocate for Indigenous peoples., CCAB is honoured he is our 2017 recipient of the Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Relations. His academic insights on Indigenous issues is helping shape industry and government approaches to building sustainable business relations with Indigenous peoples. His wealth of knowledge informs and enriches all Canadians. As an organization, we look forward to celebrating his life's work and achievements."*** said JP Gladu, President, and CEO of CCAB



Canadian Historian, Dr. Ken Coates has been named as the recipient of CCAB's 2017 Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Relations.

Dr. Coates is a professor and Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan, and Munk Senior Fellow with the Macdonald-Laurier Institute. He brings his experience in East Asia and around the circumpolar world to bear on his understanding of Canada's strengths and weaknesses. In 2015, Coates was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He is well versed in the development of considered policy which directly connects Indigenous, rural, remote and northern communities and regions with universities, governments, and business in responding creatively to global opportunities.

***"As an academic and public commentator, I have been impressed for years with the commercial and entrepreneurial spirit that has re-emerged in Indigenous communities across Canada. It is an enormous honour to be recognized by the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, the flag-bearer for this remarkable and sustained capacity and wealth-building enterprise, for my work in encouraging collaborations and partnerships between the private sector, government, and Indigenous communities."*** – Dr. Ken Coates, CCAB Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Relations Recipient

Dr. Coates has worked with Indigenous peoples and organizations and with government agencies responsible for Aboriginal affairs across Canada and in New Zealand, Norway and Australia. He assisted with land claims research and participated in a variety of national and international collaborations, including serving on the Research Advisory Committee of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. He was the Director of the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development, which provided regionally-relevant research focused on northern Saskatchewan and

delivers a community-based Master's program on Northern Governance and Development. He is also the Director of the Macdonald-Laurier Institute's research project on Aboriginal Peoples and the Natural Resource economy.

The Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Relations recognizes an individual — Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal — who has contributed, through professional and voluntary commitments, to building bridges between Aboriginal peoples and Canadian society, making a substantial impact across all sectors, socially, culturally, and politically. The award highlights the efforts of people who have been ambassadors in working with Aboriginal peoples and communities.

Dr. Ken Coates will be honoured at **CCAB's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Vancouver Gala on September 28, 2017**. For more information on the gala please go to <https://www.ccab.com/events/2017-annual-vancouver-gala/>

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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 Dr. Ken Coates:**

Ken Coates is the Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan campus. Ken was raised in Whitehorse, Yukon, and has long-standing professional and personal interests in Aboriginal rights, northern development, northern Canadian history, science, technology and society, and Japanese Studies.

For more information on CCAB, go to: <https://www.ccab.com/>

For more information on Ken Coates: <http://www.kencoates.ca/>

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