

WINNIPEG HOT TOPIC SERIES

Canadian Council for
**ABORIGINAL
BUSINESS**



FORT GARRY HOTEL

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Winnipeg, MB
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Media Release

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Aboriginal Power and Renewable Energy: How green and renewable energy is working for communities

Wednesday, March 1, 2017, Toronto—On **March 23, 2017** the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) will be hosting a Hot Topic Series in **Winnipeg, Manitoba at the Fort Garry Hotel** discussing Aboriginal Power and Renewable Energy.

Green energy has always existed in the Aboriginal world where respect for the land is respect for the creator. In the 21st century many communities have embraced wind, solar, geothermal and battery energy storage as a path to sustainable economies that mother earth powers. These are decisions made by the communities and their leadership.

This Hot Topic Series will discuss and explore potentials and the choices made along the way.

Join us as **Wab Kinew** (Fort Rouge MLA), **Byron LeClair** (President and CEO, First Nations Resource Management), **Matt Jamieson** (President and CEO, Six Nations of the Grand River) and **John Beaucage** (Principal, Council Public Affairs Inc.) discuss how green and renewable energy is working for their community.

Attendees from across the country from the areas of business, government, politics – both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous will be present.

“Building business acumen using partnerships is one way to empower Indigenous communities, the dividends and pride of ownership are real contributors to community health. Green Energy offers a new path to attainable community health by exploring new technologies that communities can embrace in search of sustainable economic growth that leads to real prosperity. This event provides Manitobans the opportunity to share existing models and partnerships while encouraging new Aboriginal economic development ideas” – JP Gladu, President and CEO of CCAB

Key Messages:

- The importance of relationships in the promotion of partnerships between government, Indigenous communities and industry.
- Exploring how green and renewable energy projects can be supported and how they can grow at a local level within Indigenous communities.

Each year, the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) hosts approximately ten events throughout the country. CCAB events serve as key learning and networking opportunities for aboriginal and non-aboriginal business leaders across the nation. From CCAB's National Hot Topic Series, strategic Keynote Presentations and Networking Receptions to our Aboriginal Economic Development Conference and our Awards Galas, the CCAB prides itself on organizing unforgettable events that inspire and motivate.

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 Wab Kinew:

Wab Kinew (WOB ka-NOO) is a one-of-a-kind talent, named by the National Post as "an aboriginal leader seeking to engage with Canadians at large". He is the Associate Vice-President for Indigenous Relations at The University of Winnipeg and the author of the Number 1 national bestseller "The Reason You Walk: A Memoir." In 2014, Wab successfully defended Joseph Boyden's "The Orenda" on CBC's Canada Reads literary competition. In 2012, he hosted the acclaimed documentary series "8th Fire". His hip-hop music and journalism projects have won numerous awards. He has a BA in Economics, is completing a Masters degree in Indigenous Governance and is a member of the Midewin. Wab is also an Honourary Witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

About Byron LeClair:

With over 20 years of experience, Mr. LeClair serves as President for Kagiano Power Corporation (a wholly owned community energy company) and Vice President of Business Development for the Begetekong Power Corporation (a partnership between Pic River and Innergex Renewable Energy). A staunch advocate of Aboriginal rights, Byron LeClair has spoken at many conferences on topics related to Aboriginal people, resource development projects and the benefits of First Nation business partnerships. He is a member of the Pic River First Nation having served 8 years as a counselor for the community.

About Matt Jamieson:

Matt currently serves as the President & CEO of the Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation. Recently, Matt was responsible for advancing Six Nations 10% equity participation in Samsung's Grand Renewable Energy Park, a 250 megawatt project that involves a total investment cost of \$1.2B. Matt attended Mohawk College where he studied business administration in the 1990's. Matt has completed a Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Management from Athabasca University and has recently completed his Masters of Business Administration.

About John Beaucage:

In October 2004, John Beaucage was elected as Grand Council Chief to serve the 42-member First Nations of the Anishinabek Nation. John was re-elected in 2006, by acclamation, a rare occurrence in the history of one of Canada's oldest First Nation, political organizations. Prior to his election as Grand Council Chief, Beaucage was the elected Chief of Wasauksing First Nation and served in that capacity for four consecutive terms. In May of 2008, Beaucage was appointed Chairperson of the First Nations Market Housing Fund. The \$300 million Fund was first announced in Budget 2007 and is a new and innovative way to give First Nations citizens the opportunity to own their homes on reserve. Since leaving his position as Grand Council Chief, Beaucage now serves on a number of boards and is working on developing green energy projects with several First Nations across the country. He has also has been involved as a mediator with land disputes and was appointed as Special Advisor to the Minister of Children & Youth Services, which resulted in a much publicized report on the state of native child welfare in Ontario. Eyaabay (his traditional name) is a Pipe Carrier from the Bear Clan. A citizen of Wasauksing First Nation, he was raised on the Shawanaga First Nation and has extended family in Nipissing, Curve Lake and Moose Deer Point First Nations.

For more information go to: <https://www.ccab.com/events/winnipeg-hot-topic-series/>

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