



Vision Quest

CONFERENCES Inc.
May 18-20, 2010 Winnipeg Convention Centre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VISION QUEST 2010: TRADE SHOW OPEN TO PUBLIC – FREE ADMISSION!

Winnipeg, Manitoba (May 4, 2010) – The **Vision Quest Conference** is pleased to announce that the Trade Show will be open to the public this year, with **FREE PUBLIC ADMISSION**:

VISION QUEST 2010 – TRADE SHOW
Winnipeg Convention Centre, Hall B, Third Floor
Wednesday, May 19 / 8:30am to 4:30pm
Thursday, May 20 / 8:00am to 2:30pm
Free public admission!

THE TRADE SHOW

More than 80 Exhibitors will be on display at the Trade Show during the 2010 Vision Quest Conference. Exhibitors represent business suppliers, service providers, career opportunities, hospitality groups, economic development organizations, educational institutions, and information services, along with a selection of artists and artisans.

THE CONFERENCE

The 2010 Vision Quest Conference takes place May 18 to 20 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. It's the 14th year of bringing innovators, entrepreneurs and business leaders together to discuss and promote Aboriginal business, community and economic development. The desired outcome is for building capacity, motivating, and inspiring continued success in Aboriginal communities through learning, networking, information sharing, and partnership building. More than 8,400 participants have attended Vision Quest since its inception. Here are some of the highlights of this dynamic three-day conference:

- Two acclaimed keynote speakers
- 16 workshops about business, leadership, and more
- Trade Show featuring more than 80 exhibitors
- Gala Banquet with special performances
- Networking and partnership opportunities
- Empowering youth program
- Culture and entertainment
- Award presentations
- Meals and refreshments

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Providing the opening keynote presentation on Wednesday, May 19 is **Wes Studi**, an internationally acclaimed actor, sculptor, musician, author, activist, Vietnam veteran, and full-blooded Cherokee. Originally from Oklahoma, Wes is best known for his roles in *Dances With Wolves*, *The Last of the Mohicans*, *Heat*, and James Cameron's *Avatar*, to name but a few Hollywood blockbusters. Wes can also be seen in the NBC television series *Kings*. He currently resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and performs with his wife Maura in a six-piece band called Firecat of Discord.

On Thursday, May 20 the keynote speaker is Winnipeg's own **Ralph 'Junior' Moar**, Canada's Light Heavyweight Boxing Champion. Junior won the Canadian Middleweight Amateur Championship at the age of 18, and was also voted CABA boxer of the year before his life took a turn. He got involved with Winnipeg gangs and ended up in jail, where his time included 27 months in solitary confinement for his own protection. After the death of his brother, taken by leukemia in 2001, Junior re-evaluated his life. Today, he is clean and sober in Richmond BC, trains with a former Canadian Olympic fighter, and is focused on his successful boxing career. Away from the ring, he and his wife run West Coast Kids, a baby furniture store in Richmond.

OPENING NIGHT EVENT

Back by popular demand... a lot of laughs on opening night! With the successful addition of Comedy Night in 2009, laughter will again kick-off the conference in 2010. Vision Quest will feature **Don Burnstick**, who has established himself as one of Canada's best comedians today. Don will take to the stage on the evening of Tuesday, May 18 along with music by **DJ Sadie** from Winnipeg's newest radio station, Streetz FM.

ABOUT VISION QUEST

Vision Quest Conferences Inc. is a community based charitable organization formed through partnerships with six Community Futures Development Corporations (Cedar Lake CFDC, Dakota Ojibway CFDC, Kitayan CFDC, Northwest CFDC, North Central CFDC, Southeast CFDC). Vision Quest thanks the following Sponsors to date for their support: Indian & Northern Affairs Canada; Manitoba Hydro; MTS Allstream; South Beach Casino & Resort; Winnipeg Foundation. Thanks also to the many Media Partners, service providers, and other supporters.

www.vqconference.com

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Photos and video available.
Advance and on-site interviews available.
Media accreditation available.

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