

# Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce



[www.aboriginalchamber.ca](http://www.aboriginalchamber.ca)

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# Purpose

- To provide some background about the ACC
- To outline the ACC goals and objectives
- To discuss challenges and successes we have experienced
- To outline lessons learned



# Background

- The concept of the “Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce” was introduced on October 19, 2004
- The Manitoba Chamber of Commerce supported and sponsored the ACC as part of the Chamber movement



# Background

- On November 3, 2004, the Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce was announced in Winnipeg, Manitoba at the Premier's Economic Advisory Council Summit
- The ACC is into its fifth year of operation



# Background

- **ACC** is a not-for-profit corporation
- Incorporated under the Boards of Trade Act in April 2006
- Governed by a 13 member Board of Directors



# Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce “We Mean Business”

The Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce goal is to foster a strong, competitive economic environment that benefits Aboriginal businesses of all sizes and sectors in Manitoba and beyond!



# Mission of the ACC

“ACC is committed to excellence in providing exceptional value to all its members through its portfolio of innovative and value added products and services.”



# VISION

“ACC at the centre of a strong and sustaining Indigenous business network in Canada and well positioned in the global business community.”



# Objectives

- Help Aboriginal businesses prosper & grow
- Increase job opportunities for Aboriginal people
- Contribute to the economic stability of our communities



# Objectives (cont'd)

- Encourage expansion and development of all segments of our communities
- Promote and support the retail, commercial, industrial and educational interests of the Aboriginal business community



# Reaching our Objectives

- Recognition and respect
- Growth and Sustainability
- Increased advocacy role
- Opening doors – networking opportunities
- Increase Aboriginal businesses
- Trade on a Global Scale
- An Indigenous Free Trade Zone



# Reaching our Objectives

- Canada wide membership
- Network of Aboriginal Chambers
- Sharing lessons learned
- Mentoring young Aboriginal entrepreneurs
- Connecting with corporate Canada
- Building partnerships

**“Imagination is more important than knowledge....”**  
**Albert Einstein**



# Challenges

- Balance
- Governance
- Building a sustainable organization
- Staying relevant



# Successes

- Launching the first Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce in Canada
- Building partnerships
- Networking – connecting members with corporate Canada
- Innovative management



# Lessons Learned

- Ensure that your organizational foundation is solid
- Understand what your members need
- Keep in touch - complacency has no place in business
- Plan, update, revise and plan again



# Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce

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