



Media Advisory

For Release: Friday, October 12 - 9:00 am, CST

An Aboriginal Solution to Manitoba's Imminent Skills Shortage

October 15-16, 2007 - Winnipeg, Manitoba

Who/What

Manitoba employers, Aboriginal employment centres/community and government officials will meet at *Manitoba Workforce Connex*, an interactive and results-driven forum designed to break down employment barriers and create training and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people in Manitoba trades and apprenticeship.

Why

The future of Manitoba's labour supply is expected to begin declining in 2011 due to a decrease in anticipated population growth. The issue will only intensify as projected growth in several sectors of the economy begins to take shape. Today Manitoba's economic players are in an ideal position to do the preliminary work necessary to ensure a skilled workforce is available to meet upcoming demands.

When

Monday, October 15, 2007 - 12:30 - 4:30 pm (forum) -- 6:00 - 7:30 pm (cultural experience)

Tuesday, October 16, 2007 - 9:00 am - 3:30 pm (forum)

Where

Winnipeg Convention Centre, 375 York Avenue, Winnipeg

Highlights

October 15th

- The Honourable Oscar Lathlin, Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
- Kelly Lendsay, President and CEO, Aboriginal Human Resource Council
- Grand Chief Ron Evans, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
- Grand Chief Sydney Garrioch, Manitoba Keewatinook Ininew Okimowin
- Grand Chief Morris Shannacappo, Southern Chiefs Organization
- Market Highlights - John Harper, Government of Manitoba
- Real Life Stories of Success:
 - Rosa Walker, Executive Director, Aboriginal Leadership Institute Inc.
 - Joel Martens, Project Coordinator/Estimator, Bayview Construction Ltd.
 - Suzette Shorting, Quality Control Inspector, Cormer Group Industries Ltd.
- Keynote - Chief Dennis Meeches, Long Plains First Nation
- Evening Cultural Experience

October 16

- Promising Practice Panels (Supply and Demand)

Who

Manitoba Workforce Connex is hosted by the Aboriginal Human Resource Council in cooperation with the Manitoba regional planning committee. The forum is funded by the Sector Council Program, Human Resources and Social Development Canada and the Manitoba Government with financial support from Manitoba Hydro, RBC Financial and Comstock.

Media are welcome to visit the forum.

Telephone and on-site interviews will be made available upon request.

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