



## The Power of Collaboration Coming to Calgary: Bridging the Gap Between Aboriginal Business Leaders and Corporate Canada

*1<sup>st</sup> Joint Summit for Canadian Board Diversity Council and Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business*

**Calgary, May 11, 2015-** The **Canadian Board Diversity Council (CBDC)** and the **Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB)** will hold its second joint Summit on Governance on **Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>** in downtown Calgary.

Media are welcome at the Summit **where more than 100** business leaders from Aboriginal communities and Corporate Canada will look to answer:

- How do Aboriginal communities make decisions that affect the value of companies?
- What can Aboriginal leaders and corporate leaders learn from each other?
- How can businesses benefit from having a higher representation of diverse board leadership?

**Available for interviews and comment from 11 am to 3 pm at the Calgary Westin will be:**

- **Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould:** Regional Chief, BC Assembly of First Nations, Advisor, BC Treaty Commission
- **Thomas Issac:** Lead, Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt's Aboriginal Law Group
- **Mel Benson:** Board Director, Suncor, Fort McKay Group of Companies, ECM Energy Services
- **John Carruthers:** President, Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines
- **Marie Delorme, PhD,** CEO Imagination Group of Companies, Board Member United Way of Calgary
- **J. P. Gladu,** CEO, Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business
- **Pamela Jeffery:** Founder, Canadian Board Diversity Council and the Women's Executive Network

"Each year we ask corporate directors how they identify potential new directors to bring forward on slates to their shareholders. And each year our research shows that four of five directors brought on to boards are brought on by the existing directors. And so typically those existing directors don't have [Aboriginal people] within their own networks. This is an important and timely conversation starter for companies looking for new and diverse talent on their corporate boards and the Aboriginal leaders who can bridge the gap," says Pamela Jeffery.

The **Canadian Board Diversity Council (CBDC)** is the leading Canadian organization advancing diversity on Canada's boards. Founded in 2009, the Council has since grown to 57 Founding and Corporate Member organizations that are committed to greater diversity in the Canadian workplace. The Council's definition of diversity in respect of boards expands the traditional definition of industry experience, management experience, education, functional area of expertise, geography and age to also include considerations such as gender, ethnicity and Aboriginal status.

The **Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (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.

**Event Registration:** [Power of Collaboration](#)

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Summit sponsors include CIBC as the Banking Sponsor and EY as the Accounting and Advisory Services Sponsor and Simon Fraser University's Beedie School as the Academic Partner.