

# Unlocking Opportunities

at Naawi-Oodena

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

## Summit Program

MAY 6-7, 2024

8:30AM - 4:30PM

RBC CONVENTION CENTRE

YORK BALLROOM 2-4

WINNIPEG ◀ MANITOBA

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# UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

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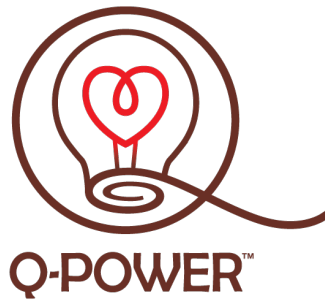
# UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

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# UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

## DAY 1 - MAY 6, 2024

- 8:00 am Pipe Ceremony:
- **Kirby and Zongidaye Nelson, Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation**
- Water Ceremony:
- **Hilda, Caleb, and Jillian Atkinson, Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation**
- 9:00 am Grand Entry:
- **Arena Director: Shannon Bunn**
  - **Drum Group: Spirit Sands**
- Opening Prayer:
- **Walter Mousseau, Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation**
- 9:30 am Welcoming Remarks:
- **Chief E.J. Fontaine, Sagkeeng First Nation, Treaty One Development Corporation (T1DC) President**
  - **Chief Gordon BlueSky, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Treaty One Nations (T1N) Chairperson**
  - **Hon. Ian Bushie, Minister of Indigenous Economic Development**
- 10:00 am Keynote Speaker:
- **Chief Robert Louie, Westbank First Nation**
- 10:45 am Health Break**
- 11:00 am T1DC Naawi-Oodena Opportunities:
- **Kathleen BlueSky, CEO, Treaty One Development Corporation (T1DC)**
- 12:00 pm Lunch**
- 1:00 pm First Nation Economic Development Panel: Guide to Developing on First Nation Lands
- **Dr. André Le Dressay, Fiscal Realities**
  - **Chief Gordon BlueSky, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Treaty One Nations (T1N) Chairperson**
  - **Marcel Moody, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation**
- 1:45 pm Indigenous Innovators: Pathways in Entrepreneurship Panel
- **Michelle Cameron, Dreamcatcher Promotions**
  - **Erica Daniels, Kejic Productions**
  - **Émilie McKinney, Anishinaabe Bimishimo**
- 2:30 pm Health Break**
- 2:45 pm Commercial Real Estate Outlook & Opportunities Presentation:
- **ICI Properties**
- 3:30 pm Keynote Speaker:
- **Dr. André Le Dressay, Fiscal Realities**
- 4:15 pm Adjournment of Day 1

# UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

## DAY 2 - MAY 7, 2024

8:30 am Opening Remarks:

- **Chief E.J. Fontaine, Sagkeeng First Nation, Treaty One Development Corporation (T1DC) President**

9:00 am Keynote Speaker:

- **Frank Busch, Strategies North Advisory Inc.**

10:00 am Treaty One Nation (T1N) Land Leasing Opportunities & Leasing Structure:

- **Jolene Mercer, Executive Director, Treaty One Nations Inc. (T1N)**

### 10:45 am Health Break

11:00 am Land Use Panel: Highest and Best Use of Urban Reserve Lands

- **Chief Gordon BlueSky, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Treaty One Nations (T1N) Chairperson**
- **Holly Monkman, HTFC Planning & Design**
- **Patricia Mitchell, Manitoba Uske**

### 12:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm Naawi-Oodena Workforce Initiative (NOWI) Opportunities Presentation:

- **Dennis McLeod, Labour Force Specialist, Treaty One Nations Inc. (T1N)**

1:45 pm Naawi-Oodena Design Guidelines Presentation:

- **Ryan Gorrie, Brooke McIlroy**

2:30 pm Indigenous Design Panel: The Importance of Instilling Treaty One Culture into the Design Landscape

- **Reanna Merasty, Number TEN**
- **Destiny Seymour, Indigo Arrows**
- **Ryan Gorrie, Brooke McIlroy**
- **Faith Campos, T1DC**

### 3:15 pm Health Break

3:30 pm Keynote Speaker:

- **Carol Anne Hilton, Indigenomics Institute**

4:15 pm Closing Remarks:

- **Chief E.J. Fontaine, Sagkeeng First Nation, Treaty One Development Corporation (T1DC) President**

Closing Prayer

- **Walter Mousseau, Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation**

Retire Eagle Staff and Flags

- **Arena Director: Shannon Bunn**
- **Drum Group: Spirit Sands**

# UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES AT NAAWI-ODENA

Step into the future of economic development at the Unlocking Opportunities at Naawi-Oodena Economic Development Summit, a landmark event where the potential of business and investment on Treaty One lands takes centre stage!

Proudly presented by the Treaty One Development Corporation, journey with us as we unveil the transformative vision for the 109-acre site, poised to become the largest urban First Nation Economic Development Zone in Canada.

Delve into the rich history behind this endeavor—a narrative of resilience, advocacy, and collaboration. Abandoned since 2004, the site was home to the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, until its relocation to Shilo, MB.

After years of litigation, perseverance prevailed, culminating in the landmark Comprehensive Settlement Agreement of 2019 and the official repatriation of the lands now called Naawi-Oodena to the jointly held land base of the Treaty One Nations in 2022. Thus, the stage was set for the birth of Naawi-Oodena—a testament to the resilient spirit of the Treaty One Nations.

Once a dormant landscape, this visionary project embarks on a journey to create a dynamic and inclusive mixed-use village that encapsulates the essence of community, prosperity, and sustainability. Join us as we embark on a unique and inspiring odyssey toward a brighter, more connected future that showcases the best in Indigenous business, design, arts, and culture.

Central to this initiative is the visionary Master Plan crafted by the Treaty One Development Corporation (T1DC), guided by seven core aspirations. From fostering prosperity and community cohesion to celebrating First Nations heritage and embracing sustainable urbanism, every facet of the plan reflects a commitment to inclusive growth and cultural vibrance.

But this journey isn't one embarked upon alone—it's a collective endeavor, shaped by extensive community engagement and collaboration. From Treaty One members to neighbouring residents, businesses, and various levels of government, voices of stakeholders from all corners have contributed to the blueprint of Naawi-Oodena.

The Unlocking Opportunities at Naawi-Oodena Economic Development Summit, where past meets present, and the future unfolds before your eyes. Together, let's embark on a journey of prosperity, community, and cultural resurgence—a journey that begins with unlocking the boundless opportunities of Naawi-Oodena.

## Unlocking Opportunities at Naawi-Oodena Economic Development Summit: MC

### Niigaan Sinclair, Peguis First Nation



Niigaan Sinclair is Anishinaabe from Peguis First Nation and a professor at the University of Manitoba. He is a multiple nominee of Canadian columnist of the year (winning in 2018) and is a featured member of the Friday "Power Panel" on CBC's Power & Politics who was recently named to the "Power List" by Maclean's magazine as one of the most influential individuals in Canada. Apologies for misunderstanding your request.

Additionally, he is renowned for his energetic public speaking engagements, captivating audiences with his insights on Indigenous literature, history, and social justice. His dedication to advancing Indigenous knowledge and advocating for Indigenous rights positions him as a key influencer in Canadian discourse on reconciliation and Indigenous issues.

# UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

## WELCOMING REMARKS

### Message from T1DC CEO Kathleen BlueSky



Tansi, Boozhoo, and Greetings to all our Partners, Stakeholders, and Guests!

As the newly appointed CEO of the Treaty One Development Corporation, it is my honour to welcome all of you to the Unlocking Opportunities at Naawi-Oodena: Economic Development Summit to join us as we talk about the history, plans, and the future of Naawi-Oodena. This event is a big deal for us, as it is about Treaty One and its stakeholders coming together to make our community dreams a reality. Turning the 109-acre site that is now called Naawi-Oodena into the largest First Nation Urban Economic Development Zone in Canada has taken a lot of hard work from our leadership and our staff. It shows what we can achieve when we work together. Let's make the most of this opportunity to learn and grow together. Miigwech!

### Message from T1DC President Chief E.J. Fontaine, Sagkeeng First Nation



Aniin, Boozhoo, and Greetings to our Esteemed Guests, Partners, and Friends!

As President of the Treaty One Development Corporation, it is an honour to welcome you to the Unlocking Opportunities at Naawi-Oodena: Economic Development Summit. As someone who became Chief of my home community of Sagkeeng First Nation following a lifetime career of business and entrepreneurship, I understand the value of working together for economic empowerment and self-determination for Indigenous communities. Naawi-Oodena is a symbol of hope for us, showing what we can achieve when we come together. I am grateful for everyone's hard work and dedication to making this happen. Let's take this opportunity to brainstorm, share ideas, and build lasting partnerships that will shape the future of not just Naawi-Oodena, but all First Nation lands across the Nation. Thank you to everyone for being here!

### Message from T1N Chairperson Chief Gordon BlueSky, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation



Aniin, Boozhoo, and Greetings to all our Relatives, Allies, and Supporters!

As Chairperson of the Treaty One Nations, it brings me great joy to welcome everyone to the Unlocking Opportunities at Naawi-Oodena: Economic Development Summit. This summit represents a pivotal moment in our journey towards economic sovereignty and prosperity on the jointly held Treaty One lands. The transformation of the 109-acre site into the largest First Nation Urban Economic Development Zone in Canada is a testament to the strength of our partnerships and the resilience of our communities, a feat that we could not easily accomplish on our own. Together, we are rewriting the narrative of this country's history and reclaiming our rightful place as leaders in economic development and innovation. I welcome you to join us in celebrating this milestone and hope this event provides you with a valuable opportunity to learn, connect, and envision the thriving future of Naawi-Oodena. Miigwech!

# UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

## MEET OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### Chief Robert Louie, Westbank First Nation



Chief Robert Louie is a longtime leader of the Westbank First Nation and a former lawyer specializing in Indigenous law. Serving as Chief for 24 years until 2016, he played a pivotal role in guiding the Nation toward independence and achieving self-governance in 2005.

With over 30 years of experience as Chairman of the First Nations Lands Advisory Board and numerous leadership and advisory roles in government and private industry, Chief Louie brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the table. He is a recipient of esteemed designations and awards, including Officer of the Order of Canada, Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, and the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business' 2022 Aboriginal Business Lifetime Achievement Award.

### Kathleen BlueSky, CEO, Treaty One Development Corporation (T1DC)



Kathleen BlueSky, a Cree and Anishinabe Ikwé from Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and Minegoziibe Anishinabe First Nation, is a visionary entrepreneur and devoted mother of three. She is the CEO of Treaty One Development Corporation, leading a major economic development project at Naawi Oodena, 109 acres of Treaty One Joint Reserve lands located in the heart of Winnipeg, MB.

With an MBA from Asper School of Business and over two decades of executive leadership, Kathleen champions holistic well-being, economic independence, and self-governance for First Nations. As the founder of Seven Feathers Consulting and former CEO of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, she empowers indigenous entrepreneurs and organizational leaders to thrive and build intergenerational leaders. Notably, she serves as the Vice-Chairperson of the

\$300M First Nation Market Housing Fund and co-founded Wijiidiwag Ikwewag, securing Manitoba's inaugural Social Impact Bond in 2019.

Kathleen's dedication to advancing First Nations' interests, coupled with her commitment to cultural preservation and self-determination, underscores her profound impact on community development and economic empowerment.

### Frank Busch, Strategies North Advisory Inc.



Frank Busch, a member of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, has dedicated his career to empowering Indigenous communities. With a bachelor's degree in Indigenous Studies and certifications from the Canadian Securities Institute and Harvard University, he possesses a wealth of knowledge in finance and economic development.

Currently serving as the Director of Marketing for the First Nations Finance Authority on Westbank First Nation, Frank leverages his expertise to provide guidance on capital markets, investment strategies, and financial education. Additionally, he holds positions on the Board of Directors of three publicly traded companies, solidifying his status as a respected insider in the financial world.



# UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

## MEET OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### Dennis McLeod, Labour Force Specialist, Treaty One Nations (T1N)



Dennis McLeod is Treaty One's Labour Force Strategist that leads the Nowi-Oodena Workforce Initiative (NOWI) team.

His experiences as a manager, supervisor, and someone who has completed a trades apprenticeship program have afforded him an understanding of some of the processes of workforce development. He is dedicated to building and maintaining effective relationships with communities, contractors, stakeholders, and partners. Dennis is passionate about partnerships that remove systemic barriers and that ensure the opportunities are there for First Nation members to secure long-term employment.

Dennis was born in Cross Lake and raised in Wabowden, Manitoba and is a member of the Pimicikamak Cree Nation (Cross Lake band of Indians). He is an active traditional resource user that includes hunting, fishing, and the harvesting of some medicines. Dennis is married with three children and five grandkids. His enjoyment is travelling with Lorraine to watch the grandkids play in hockey tournaments.

### Carol Anne Hilton, Indigenomics Institute



Carol Anne Hilton, of Nuuchahnulth descent from the Hesquiaht Nation on Vancouver Island, is an author, speaker, director, and senior adviser with an international Master's Degree in Business Management (MBA) from the University of Hertfordshire. She is the award-winning, bestselling author of "Indigenomics - Taking A Seat at the Economic Table" and is currently authoring a second book.

Carol Anne has served as a senior advisor on the Canadian Economic Growth Council, on the BC Emerging Economy Taskforce, and the BC Indigenous Business and Investment Council. She currently serves as a Director on the McGill University Institute for the Study of Canada, MITACS Research, and the BC Digital Supercluster. Her work has been most recently recognized with the Mastercard Game Changer Indigenous Entrepreneur Award in 2022, the inaugural Nation Builder Award from the National Angel Capital Organization in 2022, the BC Achievement Foundation's Award of Distinction in Indigenous Business, as well as the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business's national Award of Excellence in Aboriginal Relations.

### Jolene Mercer, Treaty One Development Corporation (T1DC)



Jolene Mercer, currently serving as the Executive Director of Treaty One Nations, is a devoted leader hailing from Peguis First Nation and a proud mother of four. Collaborating with seven First Nations, Jolene works tirelessly to secure economic opportunities and self-determination. She nurtures close partnerships with the Treaty One Development Corporation, aiming to advance economic development and sovereignty for the Treaty One Nations.

Prior to her current role, Jolene co-founded Wiji'idiwag Ikwewag, infusing her work with Anishinaabe values to empower communities. With a background in finance, health, youth, and strategic planning, Jolene brings a deeply personal commitment to her efforts in community empowerment and economic development.

# UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

## MEET OUR PANELISTS

### Indigenous Innovators: Pathways in Entrepreneurship Panelists

#### Michelle Cameron, Dreamcatcher Promotions



Michelle Cameron, a proud member of the Peguis First Nation, established Dreamcatcher Embroidery from her home in 2011. By 2013, the business had transformed into Dreamcatcher Promotions, expanding its offerings to include a diverse range of promotional products beyond embroidery. The early years were challenging, marked by doubts, sacrifices, and hard work. However, with her dedicated team, Michelle persevered. By 2018, Dreamcatcher Promotions had gained recognition, expanded its client base, and successfully launched an online store.

Today, The company stands as Canada's largest Indigenous-owned promotional company. Michelle's entrepreneurial journey has further expanded with the creation of many other business ventures such as Dreamcatcher Executive Offices, and Indigenous Nations Apparel Company (INAC), the first Indigenous-owned store in CF Polo Park Winnipeg.

#### Erica Daniels, Kejic Productions



Erica is a Cree/Ojibway from Peguis First Nation. She is a proud mother, a multi-award winning documentary filmmaker and entrepreneur. Erica established her media company, Kejic Productions, in 2017 and became a full time entrepreneur fulfilling her passion to share the stories of her community. She started her journey through a program called Just TV, a multimedia program for at-risk youth in the inner city of Winnipeg. Through this program, Erica was able to better her life and gain extensive skills in the media industry.

Along with her passion for storytelling, is her passion to work with Indigenous youth in her community by reconnecting them to their culture and identity. Erica currently runs a cultural program at the Broadway Neighbourhood Centre and mentors youth in video production. The beauty of her culture continuously inspires her work and motivation of sharing knowledge of her elders for future generations.

#### Émilie McKinney, Anishinaabe Bimishimo



Émilie McKinney, a young entrepreneur hailing from Swan Lake First Nation, Manitoba, embarked on her journey in 2017 with a simple desire to create a jingle dress. Faced with the challenge of sourcing locally-made jingles, Emilie recognized an opportunity to fill a gap in the market. In the coming years, Émilie would lay the foundation for Anishinaabe Bimishimo Corporation, a business dedicated to manufacturing, supplying, and designing jingles, proudly representing her Indigenous heritage.

Since its inception, Anishinaabe Bimishimo Corp has rapidly grown under Émilie's leadership, boasting over 80 stores carrying her products across Canada. Emilie's entrepreneurial prowess has earned her numerous accolades, including the Young Entrepreneur of the Year award from Start Up Canada and recognition from organizations like IANE.

# UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

## MEET OUR PANELISTS

### First Nation Economic Development Panel: Guide to Developing on First Nation Lands

#### Dr. André Le Dressay, Fiscal Realities



Dr. André Le Dressay is the Director of the Tulo Centre of Indigenous Economics, the Director of Fiscal Realities Economists, and an economics professor at Thompson Rivers University. He has worked with Clarence (Manny) Jules, and over 300 First Nations communities and leaders across Canada for the last 30 years to support economic self-determination by implementing First Nation fiscal powers and jurisdiction. He has written numerous academic and consulting reports in his areas of expertise: building the legal, administrative, fiscal, and institutional framework to support indigenous jurisdiction and economic growth.

He co-authored a book which was nominated for the Donner Book Prize in 2010. He was the principal author of the Tulo Centre online textbook—Building a Competitive First Nation Investment Climate (2015). He has also authored the closing chapter, *Unlocking First Nation Wealth: Past Efforts & Future Opportunities*, in a compilation entitled, *Unlocking the Wealth of Indian Nations* (2016). His working paper *Renewing Indigenous Economies Through Creative Destruction* has been available on the Tulo Centre website and has been downloaded over 800 times. He led the development of the curriculum for 14 original courses in First Nation Tax Administration and First Nation Applied Economics for the Tulo Centre and has taught over 400 First Nation students. André has received a distinguished alumni award from Thompson Rivers University and a lifetime achievement award from the First Nations Tax Administrators Association.

He received his PhD in Economics from Simon Fraser University, a Master of Applied Economics from the University of Victoria, and an Honors degree in Math and Economics from the University of Regina.

#### Marcel Moody, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation



Marcel Moody has been a stalwart leader within the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) community since 1990, demonstrating unwavering commitment to its growth and prosperity. Currently serving as the Deputy Chief since 2022, Marcel oversees pivotal portfolios including Economic Development, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Self-Government, and Housing. His visionary leadership during his tenure as Chief from 2014 to 2022 was instrumental in guiding NCN towards achieving significant milestones such as the Aski Pumenikewin (land code) and the Othasowewin (constitution), laying the foundation for self-sovereignty and empowerment.

Marcel's belief in the power of strong, diversified business ventures and strategic partnerships resonates deeply with his vision for NCN's future. He champions initiatives aimed at meeting the evolving needs of the community and fostering sustainable growth in alignment with the aspirations of its people. A proud resident of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, Marcel finds joy in witnessing the growth and prosperity of future generations, epitomizing his dedication to building a thriving legacy for his beloved home.

# UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

## MEET OUR PANELISTS

### Land Use Panel: Highest and Best Use of Urban Reserve Lands

#### Chief Gordon BlueSky, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation



Chief Gordon BlueSky was elected to serve his home community of Brokenhead Ojibway Nation (BON) in 2022 and re-elected by acclamation in 2024. Chief BlueSky is a highly motivated, results-based professional and leader with tremendous experience in lands governance, resource management, and negotiations. He was recognized by the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association in 2016 for excellence in Lands Management that has contributed and influenced the field of land management beyond their community. BlueSky received an Honourable Mention for the Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Award for being a catalyst in bringing First Nations together in the creation of the Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective in 2015.

Prior to his election, Chief BlueSky worked as the Director of Lands for the Treaty One Development Corporation (T1DC). This was a very fitting role for BlueSky due to his involvement with the Kapyong Barracks land claim during the early years of its initiation by BON in the early 2000s. During his time at Treaty One, BlueSky successfully led negotiations to finalize the “Gaawijigemangit Agreement”, the Municipal Development Services Agreement with the City of Winnipeg which secures the provision of basic infrastructural services for the Naawi-Oodena Treaty One Joint Reserve.

Prior to his time with T1DC, BlueSky had 18 years of experience working with BON, Fox Lake Cree Nation, and the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba. In these roles he championed the work on important land claims, with a primary focus on reserve creation as well as land, environment, and resource protection. Chief BlueSky is also a strong advocate for reform to child welfare and educational systems, having lived experience in Canada’s colonial history as a survivor of the 60s Scoop who eventually returned home from the United States to rediscover his heritage and become the leader he is today.

Chief BlueSky is a dedicated family man and married to his wife with three beautiful daughters. Chief BlueSky was raised as the only brother in a family of sisters and has a tremendous respect for Ikwewag (women) and their roles as life givers.

#### Holly Monkman, HTFC Planning & Design



Holly Monkman is a dynamic leader with a diverse background in Urban Planning, specializing in Indigenous Planning and Design. Her academic journey began with a Bachelor of Fine Art from the University of Calgary, where her passion for creative expression flourished. Building upon her artistic foundation, she pursued a Post Baccalaureate degree in Urban and Regional Planning at Ryerson University, honing her expertise in shaping communities for the better.

Holly’s professional journey has taken her from urban to rural settings, where she has played a pivotal role in numerous Indigenous Placemaking initiatives within the Greater Toronto area. Her collaborative efforts with Nishnawbe Aski Nation on housing projects in northern Ontario underscore her commitment to improving living conditions and fostering sustainable development in Indigenous communities. With a keen interest in hands-on community engagement, creative communications, and cartographic design, Holly brings a holistic approach to planning, ensuring that projects resonate with the unique cultural and social fabric of each community she serves.

# UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

## MEET OUR PANELISTS

### Patricia Mitchell, Manitoba Uske



Patricia Mitchell serves as the Executive Director of Manitoba Uske, a division of the National Aboriginal Land Management Association. They offer direct support, training, networking, and collaboration for all land-related activities concerning First Nations within their region.

Her educational background includes a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Winnipeg and Certification in Land Management from the University of Saskatchewan. However, the most crucial training, education, and knowledge have been acquired through direct engagement with First Nations community members, resource users, and knowledge holders. Their wealth of infinite knowledge and expertise, yet to be captured in any book, provides the most holistic understanding of the world around us.

### Indigenous Design Panel: The Importance of Instilling Treaty One Culture into the Design Landscape

#### Faith Campos, Treaty One Development Corporation



Faith Campos is an Afro-Indigenous woman who has graduated with a Bachelor of Environmental Design with a primary focus on landscape architecture at the University of Manitoba.

Through school, Faith has strived to center her work around Indigeneity and what it means to design with an Indigenous lens which was supported through being a part of IDPSA (Indigenous Design and Planning Student Association) as well as being featured in the Voices of the Land Publication.

Today Faith continues her journey as a designer, working with Treaty One Development Corporation as well as other firms and designers throughout the city to bring that Indigenous framework to Naawi-Oodena.

#### Ryan Gorrie, Brooke McIlroy



Ryan Gorrie is a visionary architect and member of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek, hailing from Sand Point First Nation on Lake Nipigon. His journey with Brooke McIlroy began in 2009 when he contributed as a key member of the design team for the acclaimed Spirit Garden project in Thunder Bay. In 2016, Ryan formally joined the firm, assuming leadership of the Winnipeg office and the Indigenous Design Studio. As a licensed architect in Manitoba, he brings a unique perspective to his work, rooted in his Indigenous heritage and shaped by his commitment to cultural perpetuation.

Ryan's innovative designs have garnered international recognition, with his work featured in prestigious exhibitions such as UNCEDED: Voices of the Land at the Venice Biennale in 2018, alongside projects by 17 other Indigenous architects and designers from Turtle Island.

# UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

## MEET OUR PANELISTS

### Reanna Merasty, Number TEN



Reanna is a proud Nihithaw artist, writer, and advocate from Barren Lands First Nation and an Architectural Intern with Number TEN Architectural Group. Reanna obtained a Bachelor of Environmental Design (2019) and a Master of Architecture (2021) from the University of Manitoba. Her work builds upon place-based conditions, organic design, and reciprocity in architecture and education.

Reanna is the current Chair of the Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members with the City of Winnipeg, tasked with analyzing applications for re-naming historical markers and place names within the city to reflect Indigenous history and perspectives. She sits on the Indigenous Task Force, and is the Manitoba Regional Director with the Royal Architecture Institute of Canada. Additionally, she was a participant in the “Futurecasting: Indigenous-led Architecture and Design in the Arctic” program with the Canadian Centre for Architecture.

Indigenous-led Architecture and Design in the Arctic” program with the Canadian Centre for Architecture.

Reanna is the Co-Founder of the Indigenous Design & Planning Students Association (IDPSA), the first Indigenous student-led organization in the Faculty of Architecture at the U of M. The goals of IDPSA are to provide sufficient Indigenous representation within the Faculty, to seek partnerships with Indigenous communities across Manitoba, and incorporate Indigenous values within the design community through advocating for culturally formed Indigenous initiatives, programs, and curriculum. As Co-Chair, Reanna Co-Edited the “Voices of the Land: Indigenous Design and Planning from the Prairies” publication and organized the panel discussion “Nation-to-Nation: Conversation on Indigenous Perspectives, Principles, and Practices in Shaping Canada’s Architecture,” with the Canadian Architecture Forums on Education.

Reanna is the recipient of the 2023 Youth-First Nations Inspire Award, which is considered the highest honour Indigenous people bestow upon its own people. Additionally, she received a Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal, the 2020 CBC Manitoba Future 40 Award, the Student Trailblazer Award in the 2020 Indigenous Awards of Excellence, the 2019 Emerging Leader Award, and the 2019 UMSU Award for Indigenous Community Leaders. Also, she received the SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship - Masters, Manitoba Graduate Scholarship, Alan Waisman Indigenous Architecture Scholarship, the Manitoba Association of Architects - Architecture Recruitment Award, and upon graduating with a Master of Architecture, Reanna received the Alpha Rho Chi Medal.

### Destiny Seymour, Indigo Arrows



Destiny Seymour, a proud member of Peguis First Nation, is a seasoned interior designer with a profound dedication to honouring Indigenous cultures and spaces. With a Master of Interior Design degree from the University of Manitoba and over 15 years of experience, Destiny’s journey in the field is driven by a deep sense of cultural sensitivity and community engagement.

As the founder of an Indigenous-led design studio, Destiny specializes in crafting spaces that authentically reflect Indigenous identities and values. Her design philosophy is rooted in meaningful community consultations, ensuring that her projects are deeply informed by local history, contemporary realities, and the aspirations of future generations. Through her innovative approach and attention to detail, Destiny’s designs not only enhance her clients’ spaces but also serve as a testament to the rich tapestry of Indigenous cultures. With a

mission to respectfully showcase local Indigenous identities across architectural forms, interior spaces, furniture, and textiles, Destiny’s work stands as a celebration of diversity and cultural heritage.

# UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

## THE FUTURE IS NAAWI-ODENA

Thank You from Treaty One Development Corporation

**We'd like to give a special thank you to our sponsors, attendees, RBC Convention Centre, and everyone who made this event possible.**

**We look forward to working with you on the future developments at Naawi-Oodena!**

**Miigwech!**





**Contact Us:**

**Treaty1.ca**

**103-1075 Portage Ave**

**Winnipeg, MB R3G 0R8**

**Office Number: 204-783-3110**

**Toll-Free Number: 1-844-374-8844**

**Email: [inquiries@treaty1.ca](mailto:inquiries@treaty1.ca)**



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