



The organizing committee for *Growing the North* is excited to present a stellar line-up of economists, industry insiders and politicians to speak at this conference. Delegates will learn about economic development, the links between local economy and transportation, industry projections, innovation and find out whom and what can help small business and northern communities grow.

Below are our speaker's biographies. Please take a moment to review our line-up and consider the years of knowledge and experience that you and your community or business may benefit from after hearing them speak.

Elected Officials



Chris Warkentin, MP for Peace River

Chris Warkentin was born in Grande Prairie, Alberta and raised on the Warkentin family farm, east of Grande Prairie, near the Town of Debolt. After leaving home, Chris studied business and marketing at Grande Prairie Regional College. Prior to being elected in January 2006 as the MP for Peace River, Chris owned and operated a custom home building company. Chris was first elected to the House of Commons in the 2006 federal election and was subsequently re-elected in 2008. Chris is currently a member of the Standing Committee on Industry, Science, and Technology and also sits on the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Estimates.

In May 2008, Chris was honoured to take the chair of the Conservative Grains and Oilseeds Caucus. This caucus is dedicated to dealing with the many important issues affecting grains and oilseeds production marketing. Chris is defending our farmers and their families through strong leadership in Ottawa.

In November 2008, Chris was elected as the Vice-Chair of the Conservative Party's Alberta Caucus. Chris is proud to help look after the Peace Country's best interests through his work on this caucus which deals with issues relating directly to Alberta. In addition to this, Chris was selected to sit on the ad-hoc Advisory Panel on the Funding and Oversight of Officers of Parliament.

Chris and his wife, Michelle, along with daughters Abigail and Cobi, live in the County of Grande Prairie.



Hon. Mel Knight, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, MLA for Grande Prairie – Smoky

Mel Knight was elected to his third term as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for Grande Prairie-Smoky on March 3, 2008. On March 12, 2008, he was sworn in as Minister of Energy.

In addition to his role as MLA he has served as a member of the standing committees on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund and Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing as well as the Standing Policy Committee on Energy and Sustainable Development. Mr. Knight is also an active participant in the Energy Council and co-chairs the Energy Task Force with the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER). Mr. Knight has represented Alberta on the Council of State Governments - West (CSG-West), Alaska-Alberta Bilateral Task Force, co-chair of the Alberta Energy Research Institute (AERI) and Board of Directors for the Canadian Energy Research Institute (CERI).

Prior to being elected provincially, Mr. Knight served as councillor for ward 2 in the municipal district of Greenview.

An active member of his community, Mr. Knight was a member of a local recreation board, the past president of a senior hockey team a hockey coach for over 10 years, and a member of the local gun club and petroleum association.

Mr. Knight continues to live on the farmstead south of Valleyview with his wife, Diana. They have three children Darren, Shawna and Gregory and 10 grandchildren.



Robin Campbell, MLA for West Yellowhead, Chair of the Northern Alberta Development Council

Mr. Campbell was elected to his first term as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for West Yellowhead on March 3, 2008. In addition to his role as MLA Mr. Campbell serves as deputy caucus whip, chair of the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC), chair of the Select Special Ethics Commissioner Search Committee and the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Mr. Campbell's varied experience prior to service with the Legislative Assembly of Alberta includes being president of the local United Mine Workers of America and working as an appeals commissioner with the Workers' Compensation Board. Additionally, he was a key participant in the Cheviot hearings, representing the Hinton and District Chamber of Commerce, Alberta Council for Sustainable Communities and the Environment and the United Mine Workers.

Mr. Campbell was previously a member of the Alberta Labour Relations Board and the Environmental Protection Advisory Committee.

Mr. Campbell lives in Jasper.



Wayne Drysdale, MLA for Grande Prairie - Wapiti

Mr. Drysdale was elected to his first term as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for Grande Prairie-Wapiti on March 3, 2008. In addition to his role as MLA Mr. Drysdale also serves as chair of the Cabinet Policy Committee on Resources and the Environment and a member of the Public Accounts Committee and the Standing Committee on Resources and Environment.

Prior to serving with the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, Mr. Drysdale spent 15 years as councillor for the municipal district of Greenview and served as chair of both the Agricultural Service Board and the Municipal Planning Commission.

Active in his community, Mr. Drysdale has served on the following boards:

- Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Medical Service (vice chair and founding member)
- Community Futures Grande Prairie & Region
- Grovedale/South Wapiti Recreation Board
- Alberta Milk Producers
- Alberta Beef Producers
- Grovedale Volunteer Fire Department

Mr. Drysdale and his wife, Sherry, live on the family farm in the Grande Prairie area. Their daughter, Jodie, along with her husband, Don, and daughter Tory also live in the region. In 2001, following the tragic death of their son, Troy, the family established a bursary for local students pursuing a career in emergency services, fire or EMS in Northern Alberta. To date the bursary has helped fill 49 emergency response positions in the region.



Everett McDonald, Reeve, County of Grande Prairie

Everett was elected to County Council as representative for the Crystal Creek - Bezanson Division in 1992. During his tenure, he has been Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Municipal Committee, Chairman of the Agricultural Service Board, Vice-Chairman of the Municipal Planning Commission, Deputy Reeve, and Reeve since 2004. He has been the County's representative on various committees including the Alberta Growth Summit, Provincial Mountain Pine Beetle Advisory Committee, Weyerhaeuser Advisory Committee, Canfor Advisory Committee, Aquatera Utilities Inc., and Sexsmith Seed Cleaning Co-operative, to name a few. Everett has also been the Chairman of the Crystal Creek Conservation Society.

He is a third generation farmer, farming in the same district of the County that his grandfather, Jock McDonald homesteaded in 1911. He currently farms 2000 acres of land in the Crystal Creek area growing such crops as canola, fescue, wheat, barley and peas.

Everett's interests include golf, snowmobiling, hockey and curling to name a few. He is married to Tina, and together they have two daughters and two sons. They are also the proud grandparents of two grandsons.

Keynote Speakers



Arlene Dickinson, Venture Marketing, Dragon's Den

Arlene Dickinson is perhaps best known as a judge on Dragon's Den, the CBC business series-turned-national phenomenon. Ranked as one of *Profit* magazine's Top 100 Women Entrepreneurs for seven years running, Dickinson is widely considered one of the most powerful female business leaders in Canada today. Dickinson is the owner and CEO of Venture Communications, a company whose guiding principle is that marketing be held accountable to business objectives. A 20-year marketing veteran, she grew Venture from a small, local firm to one of the largest independent agencies in Canada. (It's repeatedly recognized as one of the 50 Best Managed Companies in Canada.) A mother of four, Dickinson is the recipient of the prestigious Pinnacle Award for Entrepreneur Excellence, and has been named one of *Chatelaine's* TOP 100 Women Business Owners. She has also been inducted into Canada's Most Powerful Women Top 100.



Dan Gardner, Journalist and Author of *Risk*

In the tradition of Malcolm Gladwell, Dan Gardner explores a new way of thinking about the decisions we make.

We are the safest and healthiest human beings who ever lived, and yet irrational fear is growing, with deadly consequences — such as the 1,595 Americans killed when they made the mistake of switching from planes to cars after September 11. In part, this irrationality is caused by those — politicians, activists, and the media — who promote fear for their own gain. Culture also matters. But a more fundamental cause is human psychology.

In his latest book *Risk*, author Dan Gardner works with risk science pioneer Paul Slovic to explain how we make decisions and run our lives. The brain has not one but two systems to analyze risk. One is primitive, unconscious, and intuitive. The other is conscious and rational. The two systems often agree, but occasionally they come to very different conclusions. When that happens, we can find ourselves worrying about what the statistics tell us is a trivial threat — terrorism, child abduction, cancer caused by chemical pollution — or shrugging off serious risks like obesity and smoking.

Dan Gardner is a columnist and senior writer for the *Ottawa Citizen*, specializing in criminal justice and other investigative issues. Trained in history and law, Gardner worked as a senior policy adviser to the premier and the minister of education before turning to journalism in 1997. His writing has received numerous awards, including the National Newspaper Award, Amnesty International's Media Award, and others. He lives in Ottawa with his wife and two children.



John Vickerman

John Vickerman is the President of Vickerman & Associates, LLC a professional services consulting firm specializing in the planning and design of port, intermodal and freight logistics facilities. John's maritime and intermodal practice has become internationally known for providing innovative solutions to the many operational, planning and design issues confronting the marine and intermodal transportation industry. Much of John's work focuses on assisting ports, railroads, and shipping companies to recognize and prepare for future market and technological changes.

As a specialist in intermodal and maritime terminal design, John has accomplished major port projects throughout the United States and the world for more than 32 years.

Sixty-seven of the 90 North American deep water general cargo ports have benefited from John Vickerman's strategic master planning and design capabilities. His international work includes work for the Ports of Rotterdam and Hong Kong, Mainland China and the intermodal freight analysis for Eurotunnel between England and France. Mr. Vickerman completed three terms as Chairperson for the Intermodal Freight Terminal Design and Operations Committee under the purview of the Transportation Research Board (TRB)/National Research Council (NRC)/National Academy of Science (NAS). He has served on many national Policy Committees for the TRB. He has served twice as a jury member of the USDOT National Awards for the National Endowment for the Arts. John currently serves as an Advisory Board member to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Global Maritime & Transportation School. John most recently served on the Freight Advisory Roundtable Board to the US Secretary of Transportation (USDOT).



John DePutter, President, DePutter Publishing Ltd.

In the late 1970s I was working as Secretary-Manager for the Middlesex Federation of Agriculture in London Ontario, while finishing up my Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Western Ontario. I also took on a part-time position with CFPL Radio, broadcasting farm news and market reports. In 1981 I established DePutter Publishing Ltd. and the AG-ALERT service to provide Ontario farmers with market information and analysis. I taught courses for several colleges - learning as I did so - and became a sought-after speaker and freelance writer. Since then I have had the remarkable experience of speaking in almost every province in Canada, dealing with farmers coast to coast.

The mission of this company today, as it has been for over 20 years, is to provide useful insight, analysis and recommendations for farmers and for the companies and organizations that work with them.



Mike Cory, Senior Vice-President for Western Region, CN Rail

In April 2009, Mike Cory was appointed Senior Vice-President for Western Region, based in Edmonton, Alberta. Mr. Cory started with CN in 1981 at the Symington Yard Diesel Shop in Winnipeg as a labourer. Over the years, he has held various operational positions, worked in Customer Service and Marketing, and served as Superintendent, General Superintendent, Director of Service Design and Network Operations Superintendent. In January 2006, he became General Manager of Operations for the Michigan sub Region. In September of 2006, Mr. Cory became Assistant Vice-President of Network Operations and then Vice-President of Operations for the Eastern Region in June 2007, until his promotion to Senior Vice-President, Eastern Region, in November 2008.



David Emerson

Currently Mr. Emerson is Senior Advisor to CAI Managers, a private equity fund (November 2008 - present) and Executive Chair, British Columbia Transmission Corporation (November 2008 - present).

Mr. Emerson's public service career includes posts as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Canada (May 2008 - October 2008); Member of Parliament and Minister of International Trade, with Responsibility for 2010 Winter Olympics and Asia Pacific Gateway Initiative, Government of Canada (2006 - 2008); Member of Parliament and Minister of Industry, Government of Canada (2004 - 2006); President, CEO of Canfor Corporation (1998 - 2004); President, CEO of Vancouver International Airport Authority (1992 - 1997); President of Western and Pacific Bank of Canada then, following a merger, Chairman and CEO of Canadian Western Bank (1986 - 1990). He also had a career in public service in the province of British Columbia (1975 - 1986, 1990 - 1992). He has also held various senior policy roles including Deputy Minister of Finance, Secretary to Treasury Board, Deputy Minister to the Premier, Secretary to Cabinet. He began his career as an economist with the Economic Council of Canada (1972 - 1975). Mr. Emerson has a PhD, Economics from Queens University as well as an MA and BA in Economics from the University of Alberta.



Jim Dinning, Chair, Export Development Canada

Jim Dinning is the chair of Western Financial Group (WES-T) and Export Development Canada. He is chair and director of a number of public and private companies and not for profit organizations. Mr. Dinning served as executive vice president of TransAlta Corporation from 1997 to 2004 and earlier held key positions during his 11 years as a member of the legislative assembly in Alberta, including a term as provincial treasurer from 1992 to 1997.

Mr. Dinning is a graduate of Queen's University with a Bachelor of Commerce in 1974 and a Masters in Public Administration in 1977. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Calgary in 2002.

Mr. Dinning is married, has four children and a granddaughter and lives in Calgary.

Panel Members



Don Gnatiuk, President and CEO, Grande Prairie Regional College

Don Gnatiuk was appointed President and CEO of Grande Prairie Regional College effective May 01, 2007, and has quickly become known and valued in the College and in the greater community as a leader with a strong belief in open communication.

He brought to the position a proven track record of successfully building a learner-centred network within a community and industry collaborative model and his personal passion for people and their leadership. His background includes training in strategic management, and a proven ability to develop a team culture. He has served as a member of the executive team at Lakeland College in Vermilion, and as Chief Executive Officer of fire etc., a subsidiary corporation of Lakeland College.

Following are a few of the most recent contributions of Don Gnatiuk to the community-at-large:

- Vice-Chair of Alberta North, transitioning to the position of Chair in 2009-2010
- Association of Canadian Community Colleges Research and Innovation Committee
- Leading the now-completed merger of GPRC and Fairview College Campus.

President Gnatiuk holds a Master of Business Administration in Executive Management from Royal Roads University, in addition to numerous other credentials, professional affiliations and honours.



Brady Whittaker, Executive Director, Alberta Forest Products Association

Mr. Brady Whittaker has been President and CEO of the Alberta Forest Products Association on January 2008

Mr. Whittaker brings significant senior management, political and leadership experience to his new role as the head of Alberta's forest industry association.

Immediately prior to joining the AFPA, Mr. Whittaker was a business consultant.

He is the former Chair and Chief Operating Officer of the Natural Resources Conservation Board, based in Edmonton. He also served as the Mayor of the Town of Whitecourt between 2000 and 2002.

Before his public service life, Mr. Whittaker was the owner and corporate director of Aerial Recon Surveys, based in Whitecourt. He took this business from five helicopters and 15 employees in 1990 and helped turn it into a 50-helicopter and 150-employee organization that served the oil and gas, forestry and other sectors.

In his role as AFPA Executive Director, Mr. Whittaker oversees the organization's operation and works with partners and stakeholders to promote the benefits of a healthy, sustainable forest products industry in Alberta.



Charles Simoneau, Senior Relationship Manager, Farm Credit Canada

Charles Simoneau is a Senior Relationship Manager with Farm Credit Canada in the Peace River region. In this role, Charles is responsible for providing lending services and recommending financial solutions to agribusiness and large primary producers.

The work regularly involves complex analysis of large business proposals. It often involves Risk Analysis of transportation issues, economic issues, and political trends in the Agribusiness and Agri-food Industry.

Before joining Farm Credit Canada in 2005, Charles worked for a diverse range of financial organizations and government agencies, as a Senior Commercial Lender in the commercial and agriculture industries.

Drawing on 10 year of experience in the finance industry, Charles can help small, medium, and large businesses analyze risk and he can offer financial solutions to help meet their financial goals.



Janet Annesley, Vice President of Communications, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

Janet Annesley is Vice President of Communications for the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP). CAPP represents companies, large and small, that explore for, develop and produce natural gas and crude oil throughout Canada. CAPP's member companies produce about 90 per cent of Canada's natural gas and crude oil. CAPP's associate members provide a wide range of services that support the upstream crude oil and natural gas industry. Together CAPP's members and associate members are an important part of a \$110-billion-a-year national industry that provides essential energy products.

Janet joined CAPP in 2009 from Shell Canada Energy where she was Senior Manager of Stakeholder Engagement and Major Projects Communications for Shell's oil sands business, a post she held from 2004.

A native Calgarian, Janet graduated from Mount Royal College. She resides in Calgary with her husband and dog.

Dan Turner, Managing and Technical Director Hovertrans International Ltd

Dan Turner started his career as a marine engineer with BP Tankers and in the early 1970's, he joined the original industrial air cushion consultants personally designing the first Hover barge for the civil engineering company J T Mackey and barges up to 750 tons were operated including the Yukon river crossing and ice breaking for the US Coastguard.

Dan Turner was also involved in the first design of an air cushion system used to relocate oil storage tanks. Tanks of up to 4000 tons were soon being relocated on a regular basis.

A new company was formed called Mackace and he became the Managing Director. From the early 1970's to the mid 1980's, this organisation became the only successful operators and suppliers of Hover barges on a commercial basis, with contracts from Alaska to the Middle East.

With the recession of the oil industry in the 80's Mackace was restructured.

J T Mackley took on the modular Hover barge to augment its own work in civil engineering and Hovertrans was formed to continue providing technical and consulting services with the author providing the technical support.

Dan Turner is the only engineer to have been involved in this industry from the beginning and operated commercial hover barges from the Middle East to North America.



**Richard Dunn, Vice-President Regulatory and Government Relations,
Canadian Foothills Division,
EnCana Corporation**

Richard Dunn is Vice-President, Regulatory and Government Relations, in EnCana's Canadian Foothills Division. His responsibilities include government relations and policy development.

After graduation from the University of British Columbia (Applied Science - Mechanical Engineering) in 1978, Richard gained experience in both upstream oil and gas and petrochemical operations. Richard joined PanCanadian Petroleum in 1986, where he held various technical and leadership positions, rising to the position of Chief Production Engineer.

Since the merger of PanCanadian and Alberta Energy Company in 2002 to form EnCana, Richard responsibilities have included provincial government relations. In this capacity, he has been significantly involved with the formulation and implementation of strategies which have stimulated increases in Canadian oil and gas activity.

Richard is married with three children. He actively participates in both community and public education band programs and has coached community sports programs for a number of years.



**Steve Zink, Vice President and Area Manager,
Northern Alberta, Northwest Territories and Nunavut
Business Development Bank of Canada**

Steve Zink has been in Edmonton for the past 5 years as the Vice President & Area Manager for Northern Alberta, Northwest Territories & Nunavut based out of BDC's Edmonton branch.

Steve brings 16 years leadership and lending experience to his role as leader of the Northern Alberta Team for BDC. He started with the Bank in June 1994 in New Westminster, BC Branch, and a year later was promoted to Branch Manager, Fort St. John, BC. Since then he has held various position with the Bank as Branch Manager, Langley Branch, Senior Manager, Emerging Markets and most recently as Vice-President & Area Manager, BC North and Interior. Steve holds an Honours Bachelor of Business Degree in Administration from Trinity Western University and a Certified Management Accountant designation.



**James Cleland, Executive Director,
Alberta Economic Development Authority**

James has been the Executive Director of the Alberta Economic Development Authority (AEDA) since 2007. AEDA is an arm's length board of industry, academic and regional leaders who provide strategic advice to the Premier and Cabinet of Alberta on growing and strengthening Alberta's economy.

Prior to joining AEDA, he was the Director of Metal Fabrication for the Industry Development Branch within the Alberta government. There he worked with the province's metal fabrication industry and developed strategies to enhance their competitiveness and increase capacity in Alberta, including national supply chain initiatives.

Before joining government six years ago, he was vice-president and general manager of a Calgary-based manufacturer, which supplied packaged metal products to the telecommunications sector for companies such as Nortel. He helped grow that business from a staff of 4 to over 140 in less than ten years.

James has a certificate in Metal Fabrication from Red River College in Winnipeg and is currently in his final year of the Executive MBA program at the University of Calgary.

He grew up in rural Manitoba and currently lives in Calgary with his wife, Tammy, and three sons.

**Joy Playford, Regional Director,
Special Markets Prairie/West Region,
Business Development Bank of Canada**



Joy joined the Business Development Bank as an account manager in 1979, following a five-year career in public accounting. Growing up in a family manufacturing business she developed a passion for entrepreneurs. Her main objective at the BDC continues to be "to help entrepreneurs successfully transform their vision into business success".

During her career with the BDC Joy has successfully lead and developed innovative service offerings, supporting client success while increasing the Bank's financial and consulting operational results. Through a variety of roles, in all regions of Canada, she has been a trusted adviser and resource for BDC and its clients. Some of her recent responsibilities include:

- Regional Director of Management Services, Prairie Region
- National Director of "Best Practices" initiatives
- Vice President and Area Manager for BDC's financial and consulting operations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan
- Vice President BDC Consulting Group for Western Canada
- Regional Director, Special Markets for Western Canada

"My personal goal for the conference is to build networks and relationships with the participants and organizers that allow me and the BDC to better understand and proactively respond to the needs and aspirations of Northern Alberta's entrepreneurs."

Diane Simsovic, Executive Director, Regional Development Branch, Alberta Finance and Enterprise

As Executive Director of the Regional Development Branch of Alberta Finance and Enterprise, Diane leads a team of professionals in 12 regional offices, providing support for economic development across the province. Diane's branch provides support to 14 Regional Economic Development Alliances.

Diane has several years of management experience in investment, trade and industry development with both the Alberta and Canadian governments, including two years setting up and leading Canada's trade consulate in Houston, Texas and a 3-year posting as energy and environment trade commissioner in Mexico City. Prior to joining government, she spent more than 15 years in the private sector, including strategic management consulting for small business, as well as 5 years running an air emissions management company. Diane is a proud immigrant from Ontario and Quebec, and holds an MBA from Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario.



Marc Tremblay, Executive Director, Conseil de développement économique de l'Alberta

Originally from Montréal, Mr. Tremblay has lived in Alberta for 25 years.

He earned a Bachelor of Management with a major in Human Resources Management from the University of Lethbridge, after which he moved to Belgium and worked for the world's largest research conglomerate. Upon returning to Canada, Mr. Tremblay joined Statistics Canada as a Data and Information Consultant. Through his employment at Statistics Canada, he was involved in feasibility analyses, market research projects, business and marketing plans, business site selection and direct mail campaigns.

In 1996 he started a marketing research firm named Claros Research Corporation, a company which he sold to Leger Marketing in 2005 but stayed on as Vice-President for nearly four years.

Currently, Mr. Tremblay is Executive Director for le Conseil de développement économique de l'Alberta (the French Economic Development Council of Alberta), a not-for-profit organization whose mandate is to assist French entrepreneurs set-up or expand their businesses in Alberta.

Mr. Tremblay has presented several guest lectures at the University of Calgary, and Mount Royal College and was a sessional instructor of Marketing Research in the Continuing Education department at the University of Calgary.

He sat on the boards of the Calgary Downtown Association, the Alberta Chapter of the Marketing Research and Intelligence Association (MRIA), and le Réseau de développement économique et d'employabilité and is currently a Director of Conseil canadien de la coopération et de la mutualité.

In 2004, Mr. Tremblay was awarded the Certified Marketing Research Professional Designation (CMRP) and he was named one of Calgary's Top 40 Under 40 by Calgary Inc magazine in 2007.



Jon Close, Executive Director, Community Futures Network of Alberta

Jon Close has 22 years experience in the Community Futures movement in Alberta and across Canada. He is currently the Executive Director for the Community Futures Network of Alberta the association representing the 27 Alberta Community Futures organizations. He has held this position since its inception in 1996. From 1988 to 1996, he served as the founding Executive Director for Community Futures Entre-Corp Business Development Centre, a Community Futures organization serving rural south-east Alberta.

Married to Colette, Jon has 37 years experience as a commercial banker and rural developmental lender. He is also President of Close Management Services Corp., a professional training and facilitation business based out of Cochrane, Alberta.

Jon Close is currently a member of the Board of the Rural Alberta's Development Fund, a not-for-profit Company contracted by the government of Alberta to deliver its \$100 million rural development fund program. Since 1998, Close has been an active member of the Boards of both the Community Futures Network of Canada (an association of 268 Community Futures organizations serving rural communities from coast-to-coast-to coast in Canada) and the Community Futures Pan-West Network, a similar organization, but serving the 90 CFs in western Canada.

He is a former President of the Medicine Hat & District Chamber of Commerce, former Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors of the Medicine Hat College and past member of the Alberta Premier's Council on Economic Development.

Paul Wyminga, Manager of Aboriginal Development Initiatives, Alberta Employment and Immigration

Paul serves Alberta Employment and Immigration as the Manager of Aboriginal Development Initiatives in the Aboriginal Development Branch of Delivery Services. In this capacity, the Branch works with Aboriginal communities, and their partners, throughout the province in economic development and labour force planning initiatives with the mission to support Aboriginal Albertans to participate in the Alberta economy.

Prior to this role, Paul worked as a commercial banker for RBC and TD in Alberta and Ontario, working with small and medium sized business operating in industries from automotive to energy services. In his presentation, Paul will be discussing the role of Alberta Employment and Immigration in developing Aboriginal businesses and facilitating relationships between industry and Aboriginal communities.