



Indigenoustech.ai
Canadian Government (PSIB) Certified Indigenous Controlled Company

Summer Internship Program

Eamon Sheppard, Sam Riddell, Leonardo Lozano

October 16th, 2024

Report 2024

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Executive Summary

With the continuation of the IndigenousTech.ai annual summer internship program, 2024 saw another successful program with a brand-new group of bright interns. With the addition of St'at'imc Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, Hiawatha First Nation, Chippewas of Rama First Nation, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Mohawks of Akwesasne, the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake, and Deline First Nation, the program saw thirteen communities with a total of 39 interns participate. IndigenousTech.ai's internship program continuously strives to introduce Indigenous youth to the rapidly growing and technology-driven industries in our country, with the goal to provide interns with the qualifications and experience needed to succeed after high school. IndigenousTech.ai's internship program is made possible by the generous support of our sponsors. We are extremely proud to have BC Hydro Southeast Indigenous Employment & Training, Ontario Power Generation, TransUnion, and Playground sponsor and support this initiative. Their contributions are instrumental in our mission to educate and train Indigenous youth for future career paths, particularly in the technology industry.

Within the first four weeks of the program, participating interns complete a variety of professional certifications in cybersecurity, problem-solving, and customer engagement. The program divides the certifications into smaller courses that are intended to help with students develop key skills that are necessary within the technology industry. Some of these skills include cold calling, sales, customer service, communication, problem-solving, and cybersecurity. Once completed, interns create a foundation of knowledge and confidence to embark on a career in the field of technology.

Upon the completion of their certifications, interns had the unique opportunity to apply their knowledge through capstone projects. These projects, conducted alongside MetaOptima or the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS), allowed interns to gain professional work experience and give back to their communities. In 2024, we introduced the Water Quality Analysis capstone project for the first time, providing interns with a new and valuable learning experience.

Along the way, interns engaged in a many other activities including educational workshops with Career Foundations, basic coding through "Your Voice is Power", completing the IndigenousTech.ai financial literacy courses, and connecting/networking with interns from all around Canada.

In addition, interns could take part in the outstanding IndigenousTech.ai Speaker Series. This series allows interns to gain critical insights in various fields through the lens of highly respected industry and community leaders from across the country. It also allows the chance to broaden one's perspective on the vast array of careers in today's society and gain essential values for success.



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A Letter from the Chairman



Building business and personal relationships is one of the most important things any individual can do in life, especially with their own people. As chiefs today, our businesses and personal relationships need to be aligned with technology. This Internship is our vessel to Indigenous Youth because we need to get more Indigenous young people interested and involved in developing that field.

I want to thank IndigenousTech.ai for concluding the fourth year of the summer Indigenous Intern program. I also want to thank all the facilitators, especially the students/interns.

There were seven facilitators for 39 interns/students, the most we've ever had in this program after four years. The students came from six First Nations in BC, five First Nations in Ontario, one First Nation in Quebec, and one First Nation in the Northwest Territories.

Throughout the summer, our students have improved a range of practical skills, from financial literacy and business fundamentals to customer service, Python coding, and cyber security. These skills are not just for the program, but for life. We always encourage our interns to apply them in their future endeavours, as I firmly believe and tell them –You can use these skills throughout the rest of your life. I hope all of you get involved in technology because that's where the world's going.

Our program would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors. We extend our heartfelt thanks to BC Hydro, Playground, Ontario Power Generation, and TransUnion for their invaluable contributions to the success of the Indigenous Intern program. We also thank those communities, like Deline First Nation and Simpcw First Nation, who decided to sponsor their students.

As the summer comes to a close, I am filled with hope for our students. I hope they have gained valuable skills and experiences from this Internship. I wish them a successful year ahead and encourage them to apply the skills they've learned in their communities and future endeavours.

Liínlíntx

Clarence Louie

*Chief
Osoyoos Indian Band
October 1st, 2024*

Letter from CEO & President

Another year, and the company once again delivers a successful internship, this time nationwide. We have worked tirelessly to increase Indigenous youths' access to the IT industry and to create opportunities in their community. We are committed to offering this program to Indigenous communities around the country, ensuring their economic sovereignty and development.

Highlights:

39 First Nation High School Employees / Graduates

13 First Nations

16 Average Age

50% Number of Students from Previous year Requesting to Return



Increasing our scalability

Throughout the year, our team worked to increase the number of communities in our program. Our purpose in making this project more accessible is to guarantee an internship for youths nationwide. We opened this program to thirteen different communities around Canada. Our interns/students not only had access to our standard program, but we were glad to increase the number of workshops to improve their soft and hard skills. We were also happy to offer industry projects on telehealth, emergency management, and water data quality analytics topics. Our fuel to keep this program going is the success stories from our community leads and former interns. The latter share their stories of finding a job in the domain for the coming years or excelling in their education. We are also measuring this as industry partners and sponsors are also looking at the pool of talent from our program. The final point is that we increased our sponsorship, which made this program more accessible to more interns.

Lessons From This Summer

I compliment organizations, partners, and our team, which have built fantastic workshops. Improving the quality of a more tailored curriculum helps improve the professional skills of our interns. We are proud to highlight those interns improved their professional awareness and skills by accessing our environment. We are also very proud of the lineup of speakers who make this program memorable and always inspire our interns for their future careers. Our company also offers projects to improve coding, which our interns praise. We are glad that our facilitators and staff continually improve the curriculum to such fundamental skills in the sector. Additionally, our company recognizes that there are always improvements to be made. We are still in a post-pandemic era, and remote work has changed our environment. Maintaining the engagement and accountability of our interns is always challenging due to the lack of in-person interaction. Distance makes communication challenging as well, and we will focus on improving the expectations of interns and community leads in the future to benefit more from the program.

Our Journey and Our Process

It is crucial to have communities involved as much as possible from the start of these projects. Their continuous involvement guarantees interns are profiting the most from our offer. Our partners in these programs know that community commitment will ensure better outcomes and better communication. Early engagement will also help our partners' interest in investing in this program regarding opportunities that program can be built to have a more substantial impact on the community through the IT lens.

Seaming What We Plough

Our purpose extends beyond financial profit. We envision a future where Indigenous youths across Canada have access to jobs without having to leave their communities. We are delighted to see an increasing presence of Indigenous youth in the IT services domain as we train them in cybersecurity, coding, and data analysis. Our efforts are increasing the productivity of workers in areas where employers traditionally do not tend to search. We are also proud of the growth this fourth year, having trained over 200 interns and worked with six provinces and one territory since the program's inception. We aim to foster networks that promote mentorship and inspire future leaders.

Together, we are making the future of youth more achievable and successful, and we remain grateful for your ongoing support.

Murray Rowe

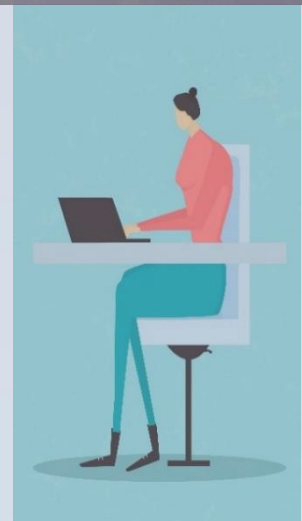
CEO & President
IndigenousTech.ai
October 1st, 2024



Information Technology (IT) is the fastest growing industry in Canada and is by far the largest spend in all levels of government and across various industries. Indigenous people are highly underrepresented in this field in Canada. Every industry across the country leverages technology and we are facing a shortage of highly skilled individuals to help us address the challenges that society is facing today.

Mission

We are an Indigenous-controlled data and software development company that leverages relationships with industry leading technology suppliers and provides skills training for Indigenous women and youth to enable them to create their own sources of revenues in their community.



Our Mandate

Our mandate is to empower Indigenous youth by developing skills in several technology fields.

Hence, we built an 8-week online curriculum intended to encourage the participants to pursue a career and a life-long learning journey in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM). These skills build local capacity and often result in launching businesses that create higher income jobs on-reserve.



Indigenous Tech.ai Team



Nuzio Ruffolo | Chief Technology Officer

Bio Summary

Nuzio is responsible for driving innovative and impactful solutions while

collaborating with key stakeholders and executive leaders across private sector, public sector, policing, and Indigenous communities across Canada. Nuzio has more than 27 years of experience in the technology industry spanning product development, services, sales, and customer success. Nuzio joined IndigenousTech.ai in 2020 and is a licensed Professional Engineer.

Role

Nuzio takes on the principal role of creating and implementing the curriculum for the internship program, along with being the lead supervisor of hardware and software acquisition for the program. Nuzio is crucial to ensure the procurement of funds for the program through industry partners as well as building relationships with communities. Nuzio is constantly engaging with participating Indigenous community leads, moderates some of the speaker series and leverages partners to help with funding and project development for the program.



Rob Glover | Vice President of Business Strategy & Professional Services

Bio Summary

Rob has over 30 years of experience providing solution development and implementation at an enterprise level. Robert has a strong background facilitating change within complex and cross functional operations, providing senior counsel, and creating and implementing custom solutions. Over the last 10 years he has honed his experience in the implementation of best practices and data quality rigor in a variety of private and public initiatives.

Role

Rob's responsibilities include the oversight of the program's budget, potential partners, the interns and Financial Literacy Programs for Indigenous youth. He is also responsible for engaging with new participating communities and building relationships to create new capstone projects, as well as moderating some of the speaker series.



Brandon Guilmette |
Chief Innovation Officer

Bio Summary

Brandon has been with Forrest Green / IndigenousTech.ai for over seven years. Brandon began as an intern performing

sales and data collection in 2017. Presently, as Director of Operations, he helps manage internal team members, partner relationships, customer retention, procurement and sales, mentorship and project management. Brandon led the creation of the inaugural Financial Literacy course with a focus on credit for Indigenous youth. He has worked closely with over sixty Municipal and First Nations Police Services.

Role

For the internship, Brandon takes a management position collaborating with the Manager of Education programs, partakes in stakeholder and sponsors engagement, and moderates some speaker series sessions.



Sena Pelin Kaya |
Project Manager

Bio Summary

Sena works as a Project Manager at IndigenousTech.ai. Her primary focus has been on the Tele-Dermatology

Solution with IndigenousTech.ai, in partnership with MetaOptima. The goal of the project is to help diagnose skin conditions in remote areas where specialist care is not accessible, such as Indigenous communities. Sena oversees ensuring that the project is processed according to plan, identifying potential problems along the way, and finding creative ways to guide the project to success.

Role

Considering that this Tele-dermatology solution was one of the Capstone Projects for our Internship program, she worked closely with the education team and most of the interns to create a marketing campaign in their communities, finding ways for them to promote and advocate for the solution.



Eva Fowler | Office Manager

Bio Summary

Eva has been a member of the Forrest Green team since 2015, where she worked alongside Murray Sr. before his retirement. In her current role, Eva plays a vital part in supporting the organization by meticulously handling travel arrangements for conferences and meetings. Moreover, she contributes to updating data related to new Indigenous businesses and financial statements. Additionally, Eva provides invaluable general administrative support to the Forrest Green/IndigenousTech.ai team.

Role

Eva is an essential team member guaranteeing the management of hardware and software distribution. She works closely with the IT team and the Manager of Education Programs to ensure interns receive a laptop and their software in record time and in excellent conditions.



Cheyenne Aitken | Project Coordinator

Bio Summary

Cheyenne, an Ontario band member from Mississauga of the Credit, began working with Indigenous Tech.ai as an intern in 2023 and has since advanced to the position of Project Coordinator. She has been growing our Database of Indigenous Businesses as well as the outreach for the Financial Literacy Courses recruiting participants for the courses from communities all across Canada. She is now developing Marketing content for IndigenousTech.ai.

Role

Cheyenne was a crucial asset by producing marketing material such as flyers to promote the program around the communities. Additionally, she supported by overseeing products created by facilitators for the program and social media. Cheyenne was also responsible for the design of the final report.

Indigenous Tech.ai

Summer Internship Program Team



Leonardo Lozano | Manager of Education Programs

Bio Summary

Leonardo holds a Master in Science, Technology and International Development from the University of Edinburgh, and a Masters of Public Policy from McGill University. His experience includes Indigenous consultations on renewable energy projects in Mexico, consulting in financial and economic inclusion policy, partnerships with environmental NGOs in Quebec, advising First Nations on self-sufficient natural resource management, and event manager with C-Suite business stakeholders and senior government officials worldwide.

Role

Leonardo is the project manager of the Internship Program. He created and reviewed the budget of the program, while ensuring that the curriculum and delivery of the material was kept in quality standards. He was the direct stakeholder manager regarding sponsorship, community leads, and capstone leads. He administered the hiring and training of facilitators, the content of the curriculum, the enrollment of interns to the program, the marketing process and the program execution.

Facilitators



Eamon Sheppard | Senior Facilitator

Bio Summary

Eamon is a fourth-year commerce student at the University of Guelph studying finance. This year at Guelph, he was accepted into the co-op program and is motivated to pursue careers within the field of finance. Eamon loves to express his knowledge of business and technology with others, which is encouraged to take part

in this program.

Role

Eamon worked as one of the seven facilitators for the IndigenousTech.ai Internship program. His role focused on managing Microsoft Teams calls, technical set-up, and engaging with the interns. He was also assigned to lead the Water capstone project and help the interns along the way as some of them embarked on their first experience working a job.



Sam Riddell | Facilitator

Bio Summary

Sam Riddell is a fourth year Economics and Finance Management student at the University of Guelph. Like Eamon he was also accepted into the co-op program and has a passion to broaden his knowledge and experience in business.

Role

Sam was one of the seven facilitators for the IndigenousTech.ai Internship program. His role focused on managing Teams calls, technical set-up, and engaging with the interns. He was also assigned to assist with the FNESS capstone project, alongside Creedan. This experience allowed him to help interns as some embarked on their first experience working a job.

Facilitators



Katherine Karababas | Facilitator

Bio Summary

Katherine Karababas is a graduate of the University of Toronto with a degree in Physics and Astronomy. She has worked in various customer service roles and is an active Girl Guide Leader. This is her first summer working as a facilitator with IndigenousTech.ai. She aims to assist the interns as they learn more about tech and important life skills to help them in their future careers.

Role

Katherine was involved in delivering the program to the new interns from Deline First Nation and another intern from Saskatchewan. She focused on the Water capstone project along with Eamon and Jorub.



Benjamin Eede | Junior Facilitator

Bio Summary

Ben grew up and completed high school in Mississauga and is now entering his fourth year at the University of Guelph in the commerce program majoring in Management. In his spare time, Ben enjoys playing hockey and football and he is thrilled to join the summer intern program as a facilitator with IndigenousTech.ai and to meet all of our interns.

Role

Ben worked as a facilitator for the IndigenousTech.ai Internship program. His role focused on creating social media marketing material, managing the speaker series, training assistant facilitators, and polishing course material. This year, he facilitated the program to the interns in Kahnawà:ke to help them complete their certification. Ben supervised the MetaOptima capstone project along with Sena and Cruz.

Facilitators



Jorub Khehra | Junior Facilitator

Bio Summary

Raised in Edmonton, Alberta, Jorub Khehra graduated from Old Scona Academic in 2023 to pursue a degree in Computer Science at the University of Alberta. He will serve as a Junior Facilitator for IndigenousTech.ai in Summer 2024. In this role, he aims to streamline the learning process as much as possible for participating interns.

Role

Jorub comes in to support the delivery of the program as well as creating and enhancing the curriculum. Jorub helped manage the database of the Financial Literacy courses built by IndigenousTech.ai and as well helped create a project on Python Coding for beginners. Jorub was supporting engagement with interns during the workshops.



Creedan Awasis | Assistant Facilitator/ Former Intern

Bio Summary

Creedan Awasis is a two-year alumni intern of the IndigenousTech.ai internship program. Throughout the previous years, Creedan has shown exceptional initiative and a drive to learn new skills. He has constantly put his best foot forward in each challenge that he encounters, and shows excellent communication skills, especially when getting to know new people.

Role

This year Creedan was given the role of assistant facilitator for the program, assisting the Manager and facilitators with the daily tasks of the program. He also inspired the interns, giving them advice and served as a role model as they went through the program, based off his experience.

Facilitators



Cruz Parsons | Assistant Facilitator/ Former Intern

Bio Summary

Cruz Parsons has been working with IndigenousTech.ai for three years. He began his journey as an intern and now takes the role of assistant facilitator. Cruz is going into his senior year of high school where he plays and leads his football and basketball teams. Cruz's goals include making a university roster and a career at BC Hydro.

Role

This year Cruz supported Sam as an assistant facilitator for the program along with Creedan. He verified that all interns were making good progress in the curriculum and developed simple content to understand Your Voice is Power. He also supported the interns, giving them guidance and served as a role model to his community.

Program Overview

The 8-week internship program is divided into five main pillars that will help the interns improve their technical, professional and networking skills. It will also expose them to inspirational leaders and to a work experience with an industry partner.

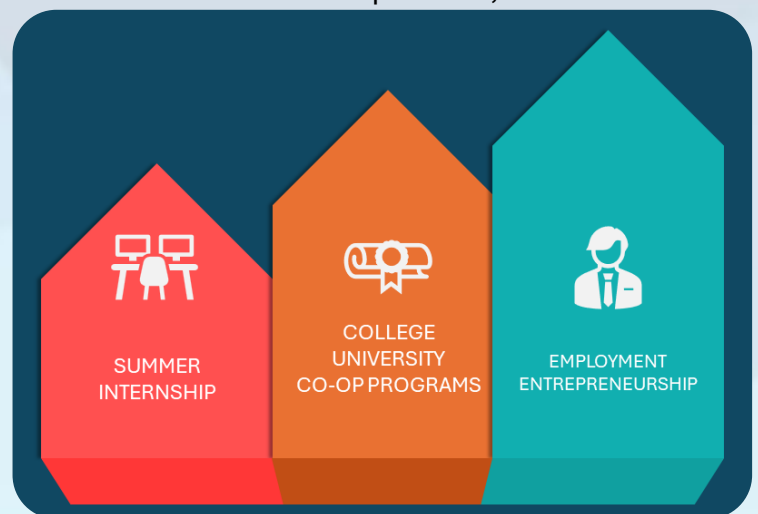
				
Technical Skills	Professional Skills	Networking	Speaker Series	Capstone Project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cloud, Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, Customer Service, Financial Literacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resume Building, Pitching Interviews, Communications & Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevator Pitch, Cold Calling and Emailing Professional Speaking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firesidechats with Chiefs, Indigenous Leaders and Industry Executives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Experience through a Technology Industry Project

A typical job posting offers a particular role in a company where one or two interns report to a manager. The hired intern then arrives at an office to deliver a specific outcome. The intern works for that manager and team for two months and then returns to school.

Our approach is somewhat different. We work with an industry sponsor to participate in the program, lending their support in several ways. We then partner with communities in a province, and those communities recruit interns. Once recruited, the interns participate in the program we created, which is delivered virtually.

This delivery approach allows the interns to stay in the community—they do not have to leave to take advantage of this learning opportunity. In other words, this is a completely turnkey program for our industry sponsors.

Our ultimate goal is to encourage interns to continue their career journey by finishing a post-secondary education and increasing their employability. We also aim to equip interns with sufficient skills to start a small business.



Participating Communities and Interns

British Columbia

Community	Description
 <p>Osoyoos Indian Band</p>	<p>This is Osoyoos's fourth year in the Summer Internship Program. Four interns joined this summer.</p>
 <p>Simpcw <i>People of the Rivers</i></p>	<p>This is Simpcw's third year in the Summer Internship Program, and they had five interns join us.</p>
 <p>WESTBANK FIRST NATION</p>	<p>This is Westbank's second year in the Summer Internship Program, and they had four interns join us.</p>
	<p>This is Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and Skeetchestn's third year in the Summer Internship Program. Four interns joined the program.</p>



This is St'at'imc's first year in the Summer Internship program, and three interns joined the program.



For the first time, we had one member of the McLeod Lake Indian Band attending our internship program

Ontario

Community	Description
	This is Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte's first year in the Summer Internship Program. They had three interns join us.
	This is Hiawatha's first year in the Summer Internship Program, and we had two interns join us.
	This is Rama's first year in the Summer Internship Program, and they picked two interns to join us.





This is Mississaugas of the Credit's first year in the Summer Internship Program, and they will have two interns join us.



This is the Mohawks of Akwesasne's first year in the Summer Intern Program, and they had two interns join us.

Quebec

Community

Description



This is Kahnawà:ke's first year in the Summer Internship Program, and they had six interns join the program.

Northwest Territories

Community

Description



This is Deline's first year participating in the program, and they sponsored two interns.

Sponsors



Playground



Example of Flyers

IndigenousTech.ai
Canadian Government (PSB) Certified Indigenous Controlled Company

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**Summer Internship Program
for Indigenous High School Student**
Summer 2024

The STEM fields are what we need to start getting First Nations youth interested and involved in. Many future jobs will require knowledge in these areas. This program will provide that opportunity and hopefully spark their interest in a correlated career path.
- Grand Chief Abram Benedict

<p>The 8-week Program Includes</p> <p>A STIPEND and a LAPTOP to keep</p> <p>Learn Technology & Professional Skills Cloud Cybersecurity Data Analytics Customer Service Financial Literacy</p> <p>Speaker Series with Inspirational Leaders Chiefs Indigenous Leaders Industry Executives</p> <p>Work Experience through an Industry IT & Data Project</p> <p>Network with High School Interns across Canada</p>	<p>The Program Details</p> <p> July 2nd – August 23rd</p> <p> Monday – Friday 10AM – 3PM</p> <p>Limited spots available! No Previous Experience Required.</p> <p>For more information, please contact Lisa Zeran lisa.zeran@ambe.ca</p>
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JULY 2ND - AUGUST 23RD	PLAYGROUND PROPERTY
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	LUNCH PROVIDED

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PLAYGROUND

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BC Hydro
Power smart

STATIMC

Summer Internship Program
for Indigenous High School Students - Summer 2024

<p>THE 8 WEEK PROGRAM INCLUDES</p> <p>A STIPEND and a LAPTOP to keep</p> <p>Learn Technology & Professional Skills Cloud Cybersecurity Data Analytics Customer Service Financial Literacy</p> <p>Speaker Series with Inspirational Leaders Chiefs Indigenous Leaders Industry Executives</p> <p>Work Experience through an Industry IT & Data Project</p> <p>Network with High School Interns across Canada</p>	<p>THE PROGRAM DETAILS</p> <p>July 2nd to August 23rd</p> <p>Monday to Friday from 10 AM - 3 PM</p> <p>LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE! No previous Experience Required Flexible with Work Locations!</p>
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for more information, please contact
Taya Rankin | adminassistant@statimcgs.org
DEADLINE - MAY 2024

ONTARIOPOWER
GENERATION

Summer Internship Program
for Indigenous High School Students
Summer 2024

"Adapting technology for Indigenous community needs is an exciting opportunity for our youth. Education, work and life experience will help Indigenous students create a pathway towards shaping their future."
Emily Whetung, Director, Indigenous Relations, OPG and Chief Emerita, Curve Lake First Nation

<p>The Program Details</p> <p> July 2nd - August 23rd</p> <p> Monday - Friday 10 am - 3 pm</p> <p>The 8-week Program includes</p> <p>A STIPEND and a LAPTOP to keep</p> <p>Learn Technology & Professional Skills Cloud Cybersecurity Data Analytics Customer Service Financial Literacy</p> <p>Speaker Series with Inspirational Leaders Chiefs Indigenous Leaders Industry Executives </p> <p>Limited spots available! No Previous Experience Required. To apply, contact Nuzio Ruffolo nuzio@indigenoustech.ai By March 29, 2024</p>	<p>IndigenousTech.ai Canadian Government (PSB) Certified Indigenous Controlled Company</p>
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Photo By: Chayenne Aikken

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Speaker2024 Series

Speaker Series

The Speaker Series is a virtual fireside chat where we invite Indigenous and/or business leaders to share their personal and professional journeys to inspire the students taking our program. During these one-hour sessions, speakers share their successes, drawbacks, comebacks, and other disruptive situations in their career.

Speaker Series Form

We build this internal document that helps our team to stay organized and informed about the specifics of each speaker series presentation. A template is made for all speakers, it includes important information such as the speakers full name and job title, and information on whether we are going to need any additional material to make the presentation possible. Forms are to be made by facilitators before the prep-session meeting with the speakers.

2024 Speakers

Clarence Louie

Chief

*Osoyoos Indian
Band*

Chief Clarence Louie is a sought-after speaker and a successful entrepreneur who has been Chief of the Osoyoos Indian Band for over 36 years. As Chairman of IndigenousTech.ai Corporation and majority owner of IndigenousTech.ai, Clarence is one of the longest running chiefs in Canada, elected in 1984, leading his community for four decades. He is known for focusing on economic and business independence to strengthen his community. Clarence has received regional, national, and international recognition such as the Order of British Columbia, the Order of Canada and in 2019 became the only Indigenous Inductee into the Canadian Business Hall of Fame. Chief Louie is also an accomplished author with his book *Rez Rules*.



**Joseph
Wabegijig**

*Centre
Coordinator*

*University of
Ottawa /
Centre for
Indigenous
Community
Infrastructure*

Joseph, an Odawa from the Makwa (Bear) Clan of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, brings extensive expertise in Indigenous community infrastructure. He graduated from Lakehead University's Civil Engineering program and holds diplomas in Civil Engineering Technology, Constructing Engineering, and Home and Building Automation from Algonquin College and Fleming College. Previously, Joseph was a Senior Policy Advisor on Infrastructure and Housing for the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada. Currently, he is the Centre Coordinator at the University of Ottawa Centre for Indigenous Community Infrastructure, where he focuses on strengthening partnerships, research, and creating sustainable infrastructure innovations.



Hanan Anis

*Professor/
Director*

*University of
Ottawa*

Hanan Anis, currently serving as a professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Ottawa, embodies a rich tapestry of experience and expertise. At the university, she not only imparts knowledge but also leads innovation as the NSERC chair in Entrepreneurial Engineering Design. Furthermore, she is the driving force behind entrepreneurship and innovation in the esteemed Faculty of Engineering. Hanan's academic journey is marked by a relentless pursuit of knowledge. She holds a B.Sc. from Ain-Shams University (1987), alongside a M.A.Sc (1991) and a Ph.D. (1996) from the University of Toronto, all in Electrical and Computer Engineering.



**Alexis
Wawanoloath**

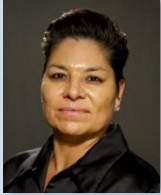



Lawyer

*Kiuna College,
University of Laval,
University of
Sherbrooke*

Alexis Wawanoloath is a lawyer, and former Canadian politician. A member of the Abenaki, he was the first Indigenous member elected to the National Assembly of Quebec since Ludger Bastien (1924), representing Parti Québécois for Abitibi-Est. Since June 2021, he has been practicing law at Neashish & Champoux specializing in Indigenous law. Additionally, he lectures at Université Laval's Faculty of Law, is a political science instructor at Kiuna College, and co-teaches courses on Indigenous issues in law and health policies at Université de Sherbrooke. His diverse career reflects his expertise and dedication to solving Indigenous issues and advancing their rights.



Malina Garner	FireSmart Education & Outreach Coordinator	FNESS	Malina actively advocates for the incorporation of the Home Partners Program within Indigenous communities, facilitating the training of Wildfire Mitigation Specialists. As a dedicated volunteer firefighter and with prior experience at the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council, she brings a wealth of knowledge to the forefront of fire safety initiatives. Her expertise in FireSmart practices stems from her tenure as a Local FireSmart Representative (LFR), during which she contributed to the implementation of tailored FireSmart programs at the local level.	
Jim M.C. Young	Data lead	Environment and Climate Change Canada / Canada Water Agency	Jim received his Bachelor of Science in Honours Chemistry from the University of Waterloo. His first job was with Environment Canada working in Cloud Physics collecting chemistry data from clouds in the mountains. He has spent a large part of his career working with weather radars and more recently in the data management of meteorological data. Since 2023, he has taken on the role of Data Lead for the Canada Water Agency looking to bring together interoperable freshwater data for all of Canada.	
Gabi Parent-Doliner	Director	Water Rangers	Gabi Parent-Doliner is the Director of Water Rangers, where she works in building internal systems, managing water data, and nurturing community engagement. Gabi also serves on the board of the Great Lakes Beach Association and is a leader in community-based water monitoring, CBWM data, and open data. She also currently serves on an IJC Health Practitioners Advisory Board reporting on Beach Sanitary Survey/Environmental Health and Sanitary Survey. She has a strong background and expertise in Great Lakes beach water quality monitoring, data sources, monitoring practices, and government guidelines.	
Michael Curry	Founder/ CEO	Mycionics	Michael is an expert in Venture Capital and Technology, primarily in the agriculture and greenhouse fields. He graduated from McGill University with a Bachelor of Arts in Geography, before becoming a Director at multiple farming and cultivation companies such as Rowe Farms and 100km Foods Inc. Additionally, he has been a Venture Partner at InvestEco Capital since 2002, where he helps to acquire and build companies to make them profitable. Recently, he has become Chief Executive Officer of Mycionics, where he leads the commercialization of a cutting-edge robotic mushroom harvesting system.	
Mackenzie Kirby	Chief Compliance Officer	Playground	Mackenzie Kariwake:ron Kirby (Mohawk - Wolf Clan) is the Chief Compliance Officer of Playground based in the Mohawk Territory of Kahnawà:ke. With nearly 14 years of experience in the industry of Gaming and Entertainment, he specializes in ensuring the day-to-day operation remains compliant with all of the laws and regulations that govern the territory. “Mack” also assists in other areas of his community such as serving as the Chairman of the Board for the Kahnawà:ke Youth Center as well as a Board Member for Tawatohnni’saktha (local economic development commission). He hold(s) a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Bishop’s University.	

Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer	Former Grand Chief	Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke	<p>Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer (she/her) is the former Grand Chief of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke. She made history in 2021, when she was the first woman who also identifies as 2SLGBTQ+ to ever be elected to the position. Prior to that she served her community on the Council for 12 years in 4 consecutive 3-year terms of office.</p> <p>During her tenure she penned a historic deal with Hydro Quebec for a partnership to bring clean renewable electricity to New York City. She was also a guest of the President of Mexico at the 500 years of Indigenous Resistance Commemoration. In July 2024, she launched her own consulting business called SkyWoman Consulting and continues to work in advancing the issues faced by First Nation communities.</p>	
Lee Smith	President / Partner	Reliable Logistics	<p>Lee Smith is a seasoned professional with over 25 years of experience in the logistics industry. As President of Reliable Logistics, he excels in driving business growth, optimizing freight costs, and delivering innovative solutions tailored to meet customer needs. Lee's expertise spans sales strategy, supply chain management, and team leadership, characterized by a strong commitment to client satisfaction and building enduring partnerships. His proactive approach and strategic vision continue to set benchmarks in the logistics sector, ensuring operational excellence and sustainable business success.</p>	
Charles Eagan	Former CTO	Blackberry	<p>Appointed as Blackberry's CTO in June 2018, Charles Eagan led innovation and security advancements, integrating AI and machine learning. He previously held key roles at Dyson and QNX Software, focusing on Internet of Things (IoT) platforms, software development, and secure systems. Charles is a respected speaker and IoT expert with over three decades of experience. He graduated with honors from the University of Waterloo with a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics and a minor in electrical engineering.</p>	
Malinda Tibbetts	Indigenous Career Navigator / Human Resources	Communications Security Establishment	Redacted	
Jaimie Lickers	Senior Vice President of Indigenous Markets	CIBC	<p>Jaimie, an Onondaga from the Haudenosaunee community of Six Nations of the Grand River, brings extensive knowledge on legislation and financial services. She graduated from Queens University with a Bachelor of Laws, going on to become an associate at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, eventually becoming a Leader of National Indigenous Law at Gowling WLG. Currently Jaimie is a Senior Vice-President of CIBC's Indigenous Markets team where she leads the Indigenous Trust Services and Indigenous Lending teams, tailoring to the unique needs of retail clients. Jaimie is also the co-chair of the bank's reconciliation action committee and member of their inclusion and diversity leadership council.</p>	

John Palazzolo

Senior Sales
Engineering
Manager,
Canada

Snowflake

John is an enterprise software Pre-Sales leader that is results-driven, highly engaged and passionate. John has a rare mix of technical and business acumen with over 20 years of enterprise software experience. He inspires those around him with his thought leadership, creativity and vision. John has a proven track record of building customer-centric, highly motivated, laser-focused, and empowered teams.



**Graham
Andrews**

President,
Researcher,
Analyst,
Strategist

AI Group Ltd.

Graham Andrews is a member of the Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement in northeastern Alberta, one of only eight communities where land has been legislatively put aside for exclusive ownership and use of Metis people.

He is directly descended from the men and women who have been born, lived, and died upon the lands of modern-day North America since time immemorial. He speaks his language as spoken by his grandmothers and, along with his wife, Chris, raises their two children in a traditional way.

Graham is a former journalist, a former federal public servant, a technologist, and an unapologetic skeptic when anyone claims to speak “on behalf of” undefined groups of Aboriginal peoples.



IndigenousTech.ai

E-Learning Platform

The IndigenousTech.ai e-learning platform is a website that provides access to multiple education courses including Financial Literacy 101 and Business Fundamentals 101. The courses are designed for Indigenous youth interested in having a point of departure to understanding credit and to learn how to use it. It also offers the fundamentals of starting a small business. It is never too late to take these courses.

Upon completion of each course, students are awarded a certificate that affirms their passing of the course and applauds their efforts.

Financial Literacy 101



The financial literacy course is intended for anyone aged fourteen (14) or above, specifically those who would like to learn about credit and how to use it to their advantage. The seven-module course identifies common types of credit available and provides the fundamentals of a credit report and credit score.

Furthermore, the course teaches about credit, its varieties, and why it is practical. It also teaches about the information that credit reporting agencies use to make their credit reports. Lastly, the course reviews best practices for improving and maintaining a solid credit score. Upon completing this course, students will understand the intricacies of credit and gain practical skills. Students will learn how to calculate their credit score, improve it, access their credit report or credit score, and effectively manage a budget.



Business Fundamentals 101



We are also interested in supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs across Canada. This course is intended for people aged eighteen (18) and above. However, anyone over fifteen (15) can complete it with additional time.

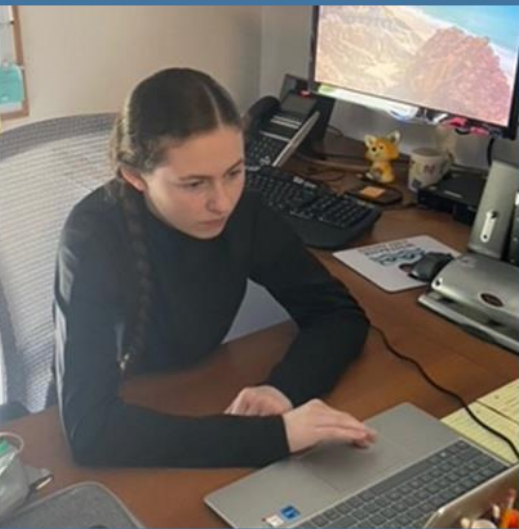
We designed this course into six modules. The course discusses managing cash flow and the relationship between revenues and expenses and later teaches the importance of bookkeeping. Next, the course stresses the importance of maintaining good credit and how it helps to build a healthy relationship with financial institutions. The course also highlights the importance of solid cybersecurity and mitigating potential attacks. Lastly, some popular business structures are explained, as well as much-needed business considerations such as raising capital and generating successful ideas for the business.

Osoyoos Indian Band, 2024



Westbank First Nation, 2024

Mohawks of Akwesasne, 2024



Simpcw First Nation, 2024

Simpcw First Nation, 2024



Stk'emlupemc te Secwepemc Nation, 2024

Westbank First Nation, 2024

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St'at'imc First Nation, 2024



McLeod Lake Indian Band, 2024



Westbank First Nation, 2024

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