

## Aboriginal Opportunities Committee (AOC)

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### Mandate

This committee's focus is to raise awareness and understanding of Aboriginal issues and perspectives within the Chamber's membership and the Calgary community at large. The Aboriginal Opportunities Committee (AOC) is committed to creating and promoting employment of and business opportunities for Aboriginal people in and around the Calgary region.

### 2008 – 2009 Committee Focus Area

- Develop an Aboriginal labour force initiative to improve Aboriginal economic and labour market outcomes.
- Provide support for the Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly bid and bid committee
- Connect with various stakeholders to learn about key economic and business issues, legislative changes and government initiatives with Aboriginal business and employment implications within the Calgary region.

### Summary of Previous Year's Work

The Committee focused on addressing Calgary's labour shortages through its Aboriginal Workforce Initiative. The initiative involved a research report entitled *Completing the Circle*, which identified strategies to improve Aboriginal economic and labour market outcomes in the Calgary region. The AOC served as the advisory committee on the report, which was released at the Chamber's Aboriginal Workforce Symposium in March 2009, and brought together over 100 stakeholders representing businesses, the Aboriginal community, service providers and decision-makers to showcase the research findings, share best practices, facilitate discussion, raise awareness of key issues and mobilize action for change. At the symposium, AOC members met privately with the Honourable Chuck Stahl, Federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, to discuss the research findings and strategies for moving forward.

At its regular meetings, the Committee heard from Tsuu T'ina First Nation about potential business partnership opportunities on the reserve; from the Peace Hills Trust group regarding its financing and business model; from Manny Jules of the First Nation Tax Commission and from government stakeholders regarding various initiatives impacting the Aboriginal community such as the *First Nations Métis and Inuit Workforce Planning initiative* and the *Consultation Guidelines Review*.

## Committee Meeting Guest Speakers

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
September 2008	Assembly of First Nations Annual Assembly Host Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AOC and Chamber participation in the AFN bid</li> </ul>
November 2009	Terry Metatawabin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tsuu T'ina Nation and Potential Partnership Opportunities with the Business Community</li> </ul>
February 2009	Lance Wilson with Alberta Employment and Immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The First Nations Metis and Inuit Workforce Action Plan</li> </ul>
March 2009	Graham Statt with Aboriginal Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal Consultation and Guidelines Review</li> </ul>
April 2009	Tony Shirt with Peace Hills Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• About the Peace Hills Trust business model and services</li> </ul>
May 2009	Manny Jules with the FN Tax Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Nations Tax Commission and progress to date</li> </ul>