

# Indigenous Procurement Advisory Committee

The City of Edmonton (COE) is exploring the development of an Indigenous procurement framework to further reconciliation, strengthen relationships and enable more Indigenous businesses to participate in City procurement opportunities. As an important part of this work, the City has established an Indigenous Procurement Advisory Committee. Committee members will share their knowledge and experiences, provide insights and offer input and suggestions to City administration. City administration will consider this input from the Committee as it works toward creating the Framework.

Committee members are listed in alphabetical order.

## **Cameron Alexis**

Cameron is currently the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Tribal Chiefs Ventures Inc. (TCVI), a tribal council representing six (6) member First Nations located in northeastern Alberta which provides advisory services in the areas of governance, technical services, finance, community planning, economic development, and any current issue the member First Nations request assistance with. His past experience includes the roles of CEO with North Peace Tribal Council (NPTC) in northern Alberta, Regional Chief of Alberta with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Chief of Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation, Grand Chief for Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, and an RCMP Officer for 23 years.

Cameron has served on many boards during his tenure as Chief and CEO of NPTC and TCVI, including NIB, AIIC, Northlands, Yellowhead Tribal College, and AFN committees as the Regional Chief of Alberta. He currently serves on the NACCA and 1st Canadian Medical Supplies & AMP; Equipment Boards. His strong cultural beliefs and desire to assist with the betterment of circumstances and livelihoods for economic sustainability for First Nations peoples provides his drive to humbly achieve these goals. Cameron P. Alexis is a member of the Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation in the Treaty Six traditional territory.

### **Aaron Barner**

Aaron Barner is a Métis man born and raised in Edmonton, where he still resides with wife Shannon and three children Charles, Isabella and Juliette. Mr. Barner's credentials include a Business Diploma in Finance, a Bachelor of Management Degree and a Master's Degree in Business Administration. Aaron is currently the Senior Executive Officer of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). He recently oversaw the redesign of the MNA's housing companies Métis Urban Housing Corporation and Métis Capital Housing Corporation. Prior to the MNA, Mr. Barner was a Director with the First Nations Finance Authority and a Market Analyst for John Deere.

Mr. Barner takes his role as a representative of the Métis Nation very seriously and is one of Canada's most respected professionals working with Indigenous Communities. Aaron is a key player in pushing the Métis rights agenda forward and is committed to achieving reconciliation between the Métis Nation and the Crown. Aaron's endearing passion for community and for what is right and just has had a positive impact on many individuals. Above all, Aaron is a family man and is committed to ensuring the Métis culture is passed on to his children.

## **Rose Bilou**

Rose is the business owner and operator of Bilou Consulting, offering consulting services in the areas of Community Stakeholder Engagement and Indigenous Awareness/Reconciliation training.

Formally a Senior Advisor and buyer with Suncor Energy, she is SCMP certified and volunteers with CCAB (Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business), a juror with PAR (Progressive Aboriginal Relation program), and working Board member for IAP2 Canada (International Association of Public Practitioners Canada).

Rose has proven experience developing collaborative relationships with First Nation and Metis communities. She also worked on a joint initiative with the Sustainable Communities Initiatives supporting youth in the communities of Fort Chipewyan and Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation through Non-profit Boards in each community.

### **Ken Braget**

Ken is a descendant of the Michel First Nation and a proud member of the Metis Nation of Alberta. He came up in the energy sector of Alberta and served four years with EPS. Ken founded True North Valve Solutions is 2018, the only Indigenous valve solutions provider in Canada. In his own words, "My dream is to fundamentally change the way my industry conducts business with our Indigenous communities, and to empower them to make changes, and build skills that will last long after the oil companies are gone."

#### **Audrey Horseman**

Audrey brings over 25 years of experience in governmental and business initiatives dealing exclusively with Aboriginal communities in multiple First Nations/Metis communities. She has served as Director Horse Lake First Nation Industry Relations Corporation, and is co-owner/operator of Sunrise Logging and Construction, an aboriginal resource service sector company to provide clearing, construction and manpower services to oil and gas, pipeline and forestry companies .

Audrey has also served as an Education Coordinator for Horse Lake First Nation, developing individual education plans for students and working with post secondary institutions. Through her professional and personal experiences, Audrey has developed genuine and meaningful alliances with a variety of governmental and industry agencies to enhance prosperity and strengthen the community's capacity infrastructure

### Jordan Jolicoeur

Jordan is currently serving on the Board of Directors for Alberta Apprentice and Industry Training, and serves as Chair of the AIT Indigenous Advisory Panel. He has been awarded the 2020 Alberta Indigenous Business of the year- Alberta Awards of distinction, 2018 Metis Nation Region 4 Entrepreneur of the year and the 2018 National Young Entrepreneur of the year with the CCAB <u>CCAB</u> » Young Aboriginal Entrepreneur <u>Award</u>. Jordan is currently involved with round table discussion series with The Federal Minister of Procurement (Minister Anand) regarding PSAB improvements.

Jordan grew up wiring homes in First Nations Communities in the Nations surrounding Edmonton. As a proud Metis family, their goal was to utilize Apprenticeship, Training, and positive employment to uplift Indigenous People and still to this day this is carried as a Core Value within the company. Carvel has grown a lot since 1997, today they work for some of Canada's largest General Contractors, Energy companies, Railways and Pipeline Companies while maintaining their core values which is shown in the 88% Indigenous workforce.

In Jordan's own words, "Creating opportunity for Indigenous people comes in many forms, but the key is understanding. Understanding where an individual is coming from, understanding their intentions and your own. I have spent a lot of time on the submitting side of a Bid opportunities to large Industrials, governments and even the City of Edmonton, and in this procurement process there are ways to create opportunity for Indigenous Companies and people, but understanding how the Procurement process is leaving Indigenous Companies and People behind will open the doors to creating Opportunities and Prosperity."

### **Chase Morin**

Chase Morin is the CEO of Enoch Development Holdings Ltd. and River Cree Enterprises Corporation, which are the parent companies for all Enoch Cree Nation for-profit corporate entities. In addition to this, Chase currently serves as a member of the Enoch Cree Nation's Finance and Audit Committee, providing the Committee with regular financial information on all the Nation's corporate entities.

Prior to 2018, Chase was employed as the Chief of Staff to Chief William (Billy) Morin of Enoch Cree Nation. As the Chief of Staff, Chase's primary role was to provide high-level advice and recommendations to the Chief, Council, and Executive Staff on a wide variety of issues, decisions, departments/programs, and initiatives for Enoch Cree Nation.

Chase currently serves as the Treasurer for the Enoch Cree Hockey Association (the Nation's non-profit minor hockey association).

### **Marnie Suitor**

Marnie is a principal partner of InSynch Consulting Inc., an Indigenous-owned consulting practice, dedicated to the growth and development of Indigenous business. InSynch, Marnie has specialised in the development and delivery of numerous procurement workshops, policies and procedures.

Marnie spent several years working directly with startup and expanding Indigenous businesses in the Fort McMurray area, many of which required specific assistance with engaging with resource development companies in the area of Indigenous Inclusion on large resource/industry-based projects. Marnie is an active Aksis Board member, who is committed to economic reconciliation and prosperity.