



aksis

Edmonton's Aboriginal
Business & Professional Association

Our Value

Aksis brings Aboriginal people together to enhance opportunities for success.

Our Mission

Creating access to economic development opportunities for Aboriginal people within Edmonton and the Capital Region.



Making Edmonton the Aboriginal Business Capital of Canada

- Home to the second largest Aboriginal population in Canada;
- The service center for an additional 100,000 Aboriginal people in north and central Alberta, as well as 55% of Aboriginal businesses identified in Alberta;
- A major urban center serving half the Aboriginal population of Canada;
- 1750 self-employed Aboriginal people;
- Approximately 10,000 Aboriginal professionals.

Our Goals

1. Establish contact and self-affiliate;
2. Identify needs and interests in common;
3. Provide mutual support;
4. Advocate effectively for our shared interests by creating a legitimate and recognized voice of Aboriginal business” in the Edmonton area;
5. Participate in the design and delivery of services to current and prospective aksis members through collaboration with existing service providers; &
6. Realize the potential for productive and profitable participation of Aboriginal people in the business and professional community in the Edmonton area.

Core Business Lines

- Network to create relationships and connections:
 - Create business and professional mixers;
 - Affiliate and link with other associations, businesses and industry;
 - Build knowledge of Industry; and gather and share information.
- Create opportunities through marketing for Aboriginal businesses and professionals:
 - Create web-based directory;
 - Create exposure and awareness; and
 - Expand entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Connect to business development programs and services:
 - Mentorship initiatives; and
 - Collaborate with training organizations



Current Initiatives



Networking-Linking-Sharing

- Network to create relationships and connections: AGM, Golf Tournament/Fundraiser; After hours networking events; Speaker series – ‘Lunch & Learns’; Post secondary institutions presentations/discussions
- Linking with other associations, businesses and government stakeholders - Procurement officials with municipal, provincial & federal governments
- Web-based membership directory: www.aksisyeg.ca
- Social media presence: Twitter: <http://aksisyeg.ca> facebook: aksis.edmonton; Instagram: aksisyeg
- Collaborate with training organizations to coordinated training to meet members’ needs



Board of Directors

- Rocky Sinclair - CEO, Alberta Indian Investment Corp., President
- Evert Poor, Retired, Vice-President
- Terry Coyes, Owner, Coyes & Associates, 2nd Vice-President
- Lyle McLeod - Owner Lyle McLeod Consulting Group, Secretary/Treasurer
- Dave Ward - Manager Indigenous Business Strategies, Civeo North America
- Carrie Kachur - Owner, Mobility Moving
- Marnie Suitor - Owner, Insynch Consulting, Associate Director

Priority needs for development of the Edmonton Aboriginal business and professional community:

1. **Financing** requirements, both equity and debt;
2. **Access to Markets:** “Positioning” of Aboriginal business among key markets to combat discrimination;
3. **Business Networking:** with the mainstream business community to find opportunities; and be informed about opportunities to expand their contacts with other Aboriginal business people.
4. **Development of Business Competencies** by Individuals;
5. **Developing a sustainable basis for competitive success;**
6. **Facing the challenges of growth; &**
7. **Finding Aboriginal staff.**

Membership

4 categories & benefits:

Businesses

- Access opportunities
- Visibility
- Learning/Training

Professionals

- Increase exposure & awareness
- Career Growth
- Learning/Training

Students

- Access role models/ mentors
- Increased opportunities
- Learning/Training

Associate Members

- Increased opportunities
- Support
- Learning/Training

What can we produce of value?

For your business &/or professional career...as a collective group, through participation, engagement, what can we do together to improve what we have now...

1. How can we grow our association to reach a critical mass that allows us to have a legitimate and recognized voice when working with government, industry and academia?
2. What can you do as a member to support and grow aksis?
3. Topics for speaker series? Industry experts/speakers that you'd like to hear from?