



## ATLANTIC POLICY CONGRESS OF FIRST NATIONS CHIEFS SECRETARIAT

### Atlantic Policy Congress Marks 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; signs historic MOU with Ulnooweg Development Group



**Back Row L to R.:** Justin Huston, Deputy Minister and CEO of Office of Aboriginal Affairs Nova Scotia, Mike Savage, Mayor, Halifax, Chief Bob Gloade, APC Co-Chair, Chris Googoo, General Manager, Ulnooweg Development Group, Chef Ray Bear, Studio East Restaurant, Lindell Smith, Councillor District 8, Peninsula North Halifax, Todd Hoskin, CEO, Ulnooweg Development Group

**Bottom Row L to R.:** Andy Fillmore, MP Halifax, Regional Chief Morley Googoo, AFN, John G. Paul, Executive Director, APC, Chief Terry Paul, Chairman of the Board, Ulnooweg Development Group

The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs (APC) recently celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at a gathering on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 that welcomed employees, Indigenous entrepreneurs, government officials, as well as business and academic partners. To mark this historic milestone APC and its long-standing partner, Ulnooweg Development Group, signed an official Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

“The MOU formally brings our two organizations together to strengthen collaboration, address important policy issues that still challenge our people, and harness the economic potential of our entrepreneurs, community enterprises and our youth,” said Ulnooweg Board Chair and recent appointee to the Order of Canada, Chief Terry Paul.

Since 1995, APC Secretariat has been an advocate for speaking with one voice on behalf of First Nations communities. Through research and analysis, they develop and table policy alternatives for matters affecting First Nations communities in Atlantic Canada, Quebec, and Maine, USA. Both Ulnooweg and APC will work within the MOU to align the Chiefs' Strategy with Federal and Provincial Strategies. Once aligned, the two organizations will work together in support and promotion of a vision of self-sustaining, healthy Indigenous communities.

In attendance at the June 28<sup>th</sup> event, renowned Chef Ray Bear shared with attendees that it can be a challenge to secure financial support for a restaurant. With the help of Ulnooweg, he was able to create a business plan, open his newest Halifax-based restaurant, Studio East, and repay his loan within the first year of operations while 'smashing' his projected revenue estimates.

"Within the past two decades, the increasing number of Indigenous owned and operated businesses has opened many doors to further partnering and collective enterprise development among businesses, on and off reserve," said APC Co-Chair Chief Bob Gloade, adding, "Our communities and people are an economic force and their gathering momentum will be key to driving the future of this region."

Federal Member of Parliament Andy Fillmore spoke on behalf of the Government of Canada, congratulating APC on the occasion of its 25th anniversary for being a strong, research-based and unified voice in this region. Mr. Fillmore went on to note that APC has made important contributions to the fishery, economic growth and other important First Nations matters in Atlantic Canada and that the formalization of the relationship between APC and Ulnooweg is yet another positive step for Indigenous people in Atlantic Canada.