

**BUSINESS NETWORK FOR ABORIGINAL YOUTH
2011-2012 CLOSING CONFERENCE
JUNE 1-2, MILLBROOK FIRST NATION, NOVA SCOTIA**

The final gathering for the Business Network for Aboriginal Youth was held on June 1st and 2nd at the Glooscap Heritage Center in Millbrook First Nation. The highlight of the gathering was, without a doubt, the musical performance and keynote speech by Wab Kinew, who is a TV journalist for CBC Winnipeg by day, and a hip hop artist by night.

Saturday was filled with various interactive and educational activities focused on social media and marketing practices. The most impressive was a competition between the students called “Rant Your Resume.” Up for grabs were two bursaries (\$1000 & \$500) to attend the Shannon School of Business at CBU. In 50 seconds or less, students had to pitch in a “Rick Mercer like” rant why they should be chosen for the award. Winners were chosen by a panel of 4 judges based on style, creativity, uniqueness, and relevance. With very little guidance, the students created fantastic videos showing how confident, well educated, and creative they are. In the end, there was a tie for second place, which meant there were 3 award winners. All three awards winners attend Wagmatcookeway School. Check out their videos by clicking their names:

- [1st place: Kyle Simon](#), Wagmatcookeway School
- [2nd place: Taneillia MacDonald](#), Wagmatcookeway School
- [2nd place: Peter Simon](#), Wagmatcookeway School

The Purdy Awards marked the closing of the gathering. A student from each BBM group were awarded a “Purdy” for being the most consistent student in the online challenges they were assigned. Our winners were as follows:

- The Marketers: Kyle Simon, Wagmatcookeway School
- The Managers: Rebekah Peck, Wagmatcookeway School
- The Economists: Michaela Drever, Bridgetown Regional High School
- The Entrepreneurs: Joseph Brooks, L’nu Sipuk Kina’muokuom
- The Accountants: Shania Googoo, Waycobah First Nation School
- Tourism: Ashley Gallant-Zwicker, Horton High School

30 students from 22 high schools and 13 First Nation and Inuit communities made up the Business Network for Aboriginal Youth at its commencement in January 2012. Twenty-one students completed all of the requirements and graduated from year one of this pilot program. In addition, 6 of these students are in grade 12 and will graduate with their high school diploma in June 2102; 4 of whom will attend University and 2 of these 4 have chosen business as their area of study.

The Purdy Crawford Chair in Aboriginal Business Studies will be accepting applications for year two of the Business Network for Aboriginal Youth in October 2012.

[Click here to view photos](#)