

Aboriginal Opportunities Committee (AOC)

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 create and promote employment and business opportunities of Aboriginal people in and around Calgary.

2007 – 2008 Committee Focus Areas

- Develop an Aboriginal labour force strategy to more effectively engage a largely untapped pool of talent.
- Increase the capacity of Aboriginal businesses and enhance economic development within the Aboriginal Community.
- Education as a means for the Aboriginal community to achieve economic prosperity.

Summary of Previous Year's Work

Last year the Committee focused on addressing Calgary's labour shortage by better engaging the talent available in Calgary's Aboriginal communities. The Committee focused specifically on programs that lead to positive employment outcomes for members of the Aboriginal community. This included passing a resolution at the Alberta Chambers of Commerce concentrated on the importance engaging the Aboriginal population as a critical element for alleviating labour shortages in Alberta.

In addition to regular meetings, the Committee facilitated a networking session with the Circle for Aboriginal Relations and hosted both the provincial and federal ministers responsible for the Aboriginal file. The Committee encouraged the ministers to make Aboriginal business development and employment strategies the key focus of their ministries.

Committee Meeting Guest Speakers

| Date | Speaker | Topic |
|----------------|--|--|
| September 2007 | Ken Mullen, Savanna Energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savanna's engagement of aboriginal workers |
| November 2007 | The Hon. Guy Boutilier, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Affairs, Alberta | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers to full aboriginal employment |
| December 2007 | Rachel White, Trade Winds to Success | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile of Trade Winds to Success |
| March 2008 | The Hon. Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers to full Aboriginal employment |