

# Media Release



FILE HILLS QU'APPELLE TRIBAL COUNCIL

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **OVER 50 GRADS FROM FIRST OF ITS KIND FIRST NATIONS CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PROGRAM**

**(Fort Qu'Appelle, SK)** The File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council, Brown Governance and Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy are proud to be graduating 53 First Nations participants from the Director Education and Certification Program.

“This professional designation in corporate governance is a first of its kind initiative in First Nations country and will produce immediate and long term impacts in the development of our communities,” said FHQTC Chairperson Edmund Bellegarde.

“Graduates of the Director Education and Certifications Program know the function of corporate governance and how to operate within their respective business and organizational structure. Many of our graduates are Chiefs, Council members, senior administrators from our First Nations and now with our collective governance capacity and tools they will serve their communities and achieve greater success in the years ahead.”

The Director of Education and Certification was designed specifically for FHQTC, its Member Nations and their associated corporations, partnerships and joint ventures. It included a mix of adult learning model delivery mechanisms with an emphasis on experiential learning such as break out groups and case studies in Corporate Governance.

“We are so delighted and proud to be associated with this First Nations Corporate Governance Program,” said President of Brown Governance Debra Brown. “Even during the program, we saw immediate and significant impacts on the board of governance of economic, social and commercial enterprises owned by First Nations in the Treaty Four area. The real impacts will be on the lives of the beneficiaries of these dozen of entities, including health centres, social and not-for-profits, housing corporations, economic development and partnerships, for years to come.”

Over six months the graduates participated in four 2-day modules and wrote three quizzes and a final exam to complete the university-level certification as a Professional Director (Pro. Dir) provided by Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy.

“The FHQTC Governance Training is a watershed event - it is the first time in Canada that multiple boards of First Nations corporations came together to strengthen their governance capacity. These corporations are critical to the social and economic well-being and the people they serve,” said Wynne Young, Director, Outreach & Training, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. “The FHQTC Leadership should be congratulated for the bold decision to mount board governance training for all its corporations boards. It showed significant foresight and required sustained efforts on their part to support the board members that successfully completed the training.”

The membership of the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council are 11 First Nations within the Treaty 4 territory, and it is a strong, vibrant organization evolving to assist, enhance and promote First Nations entities and its people, based on the spirit and intent of our Treaties.

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