

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrating Indigenous Leadership and Entrepreneurship at the 34th Annual NADF Awards

Thunder Bay, ON, October 15, 2026: The Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF) will host the **34th Annual NADF Awards** on **Thursday, October 22, 2026**, at **Delta Hotels Thunder Bay**, bringing together business leaders, partners, and community members to celebrate Indigenous entrepreneurship and leadership across Northern Ontario. This year's gala will honour **six award recipients** whose vision and determination are strengthening local and regional economies and inspiring future generations. The evening will be emceed by **Patrick Cheechoo** and feature a performance by Indigenous comedian **Ron Kanutski**.

"For more than three decades, these awards have celebrated the drive and innovation of Indigenous entrepreneurs and leaders," said Brian Davey, CEO of NADF. "Their success fuels community prosperity, creates jobs, and lights the path for the next generation."

As the **Presenting Sponsor, Perimeter Aviation** continues its 34-year partnership with NADF in supporting Indigenous prosperity and celebrating the contributions of Indigenous business leaders.

"Strong businesses have an impact that extends beyond their own success. They create opportunities, build local capacity, and contribute to stronger communities." Said Joey Petrisor, President & CEO, Perimeter Aviation. "The Indigenous entrepreneurs and business leaders recognized through the NADF Awards are demonstrating what's possible when vision, determination, and a connection to community come together. We're proud to celebrate what they are building across Northern Ontario."

Proceeds from this year's event will support the **NADF Community Care Fund** and the **NADF Mikinaak Bursary for Indigenous Students**, initiatives that strengthen Northern Ontario First Nation communities by celebrating culture, promoting wellness, and supporting Indigenous students in pursuing post-secondary education and future leadership.

Event Details

- **Date:** Thursday, October 22, 2026
- **Time:** Reception 5:00 PM | Program 6:00 - 9:30 PM
- **Location:** Delta Hotels Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay, Ontario

Media & Tickets

- **Media:** Please RSVP by **Tuesday, October 20 at 12:00 PM** at events@nadf.org.
- **Tickets/Sponsorships:** Visit www.nadf.org or contact events@nadf.org for availability.

About NADF: Established in 1987, the Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF) is a not-for-profit Indigenous Financial Institution supporting entrepreneurship and economic development across Northern Ontario through financing, business advisory services, and capacity-building programs. Learn more at www.nadf.org.

About Perimeter Aviation: Established in 1960, Perimeter Aviation, alongside its division Bearskin Airlines, is one of Canada's largest regional air carriers. Perimeter Aviation provides scheduled passenger flights, custom chartered flights, cargo shipping, and emergency air ambulance services throughout Manitoba and Ontario. With a fleet of over 40 aircraft and operating an Approved Aircraft Maintenance Organization, Perimeter Aviation is proud to serve an extensive network of over 25 destinations providing safe, reliable, and efficient air travel solutions for all. Learn more at www.perimeter.ca.

Media Contact

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Editor's Notes:

- **Filming/Photography:** Permitted during arrivals and red-carpet segments. Guidance provided on site.
- **Interviews:** Award recipients, Brian Davey (CEO, NADF), and Carlos Castillo (Vice-President, Community and Government Affairs, Perimeter Aviation) are available pre-show (5:00–5:45 PM).
- **Media Assets:** Logos and high-resolution photos from previous NADF Awards ceremonies are available upon request. Photos from the 34th Annual NADF Awards will be released post event.