



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NADF CEO Brian Davey Recognized with IFI Distinguished Leadership Award at NACCA SOAR Indigenous Awards

Thunder Bay, ON, May 7, 2026: Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF) is proud to announce that its Chief Executive Officer, Brian Davey, was recognized with the IFI Distinguished Leadership Award at the NACCA SOAR Indigenous Awards held last evening.

The IFI Distinguished Leadership Award recognizes outstanding leadership within Canada's Indigenous Financial Institution network and celebrates individuals who have made meaningful contributions to strengthening Indigenous business, economic development, and prosperity.

Brian has served as CEO of NADF since 2013 and has played a significant role in strengthening the organization's governance, financial sustainability, service delivery, and long-term impact. Under his leadership, NADF's loan portfolio grew from \$3.3 million in 2013 to \$11.6 million by March 31, 2025. During that same period, NADF disbursed \$39.9 million in loans to support Indigenous entrepreneurs and businesses across Northern Ontario.

From 2013 to March 31, 2025, NADF supported 322 Indigenous businesses through financing, contributing to the creation of 998 new jobs and the maintenance of 1,871 existing jobs. These outcomes reflect the important role Indigenous Financial Institutions play in expanding access to capital, supporting business growth, and strengthening Indigenous economies.

Throughout his tenure, Brian has also led important organizational improvements, including stronger governance frameworks, modernized reporting practices, enhanced portfolio oversight, and improved systems to support responsible and sustainable lending. His leadership has also contributed to the broader IFI network through collaboration, knowledge sharing, and advocacy.

"Brian's recognition is a proud moment for NADF," said Brandy DeBastos, Chair of the NADF Board of Directors. "His leadership has helped strengthen NADF as an organization while advancing opportunities for Indigenous entrepreneurs, businesses, and communities across Northern Ontario. This award is a well-deserved acknowledgement of his commitment, professionalism, and contribution to Indigenous prosperity."

NADF was incorporated in 1984 and is one of Canada's longest-standing Indigenous Financial Institutions. The organization serves Indigenous entrepreneurs, businesses, and communities across Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Treaty 3, and Robinson-Superior territories.

On behalf of the Board and staff, NADF congratulates Brian Davey on this national recognition and celebrates his continued leadership in advancing Indigenous business and economic development.

-30-

Media Contact: Brian Davey, Chief Executive Officer
Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund
bdavey@nadf.org
www.nadf.org