



Press Release

For Immediate Release

**The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce Celebrates Board Director Matthew Nahdee as a 2025 Business Elite “40 Under 40” Honoree**

**Chatham, ON — July 8, 2025** — The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that Matthew Nahdee, a valued member of our Board of Directors, has been recognized as one of Canada’s Trailblazers in the prestigious 2025 Business Elite “40 Under 40” awards. This honor celebrates outstanding young leaders who have made significant contributions to their industries and communities. **Gichi-apiitendaagozi** (You are greatly honoured)!

The annual “40 Under 40” Gala, set to ignite Toronto later this year, shines a spotlight on exceptional professionals who are shaping the future of Canadian business. Matthew Nahdee’s selection for this coveted accolade underscores his visionary leadership, relentless dedication, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

**About Matthew Nahdee**

Matthew Nahdee (also known as First Light After Dark Man/Biidoan Wazizi Nini) is an entrepreneur, advocate, and community leader whose influence spans business, governance, cultural preservation, and social impact. A proud member of Walpole Island First Nation, Matthew is dedicated to building stronger, more inclusive communities through leadership rooted in Indigenous knowledge and forward-thinking innovation.

Matthew is a graduate of Western Law and Osgoode Hall Law School’s Indigenous Intensive Program in Aboriginal Lands, Resources, and Governments. These academic achievements deepened his commitment to Indigenous empowerment and community advancement.

His professional journey includes serving as Executive Director of the Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre, where he championed programs uplifting urban Indigenous communities. Matthew’s leadership extends across several organizations—he sits on the Board of Directors for Pow Wow Pitch, supporting Indigenous entrepreneurs, and is actively involved with the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce and Family Services Kent, advocating for economic growth and social well-being.

A dynamic entrepreneur, Matthew owns 11 businesses spanning sports entertainment, retail, development, and hospitality. Each venture is rooted in community impact, youth engagement, and Indigenous values.

In 2024, Matthew was elected as a Councillor for Walpole Island First Nation. In this role, he advances the priorities of his Nation, focusing on governance, youth engagement, and economic development.

Matthew's recognition as a 2025 Business Elite "40 Under 40" honoree is a testament to his visionary leadership, relentless dedication, and unwavering commitment to excellence in both business and community service.

#### **Event Details: 2025 Business Elite's "40 Under 40" Gala**

- **Date:** July 10, 2025
- **Location:** Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto
- **Dress Code:** Black-tie

The 2025 Business Elite's "40 Under 40" Gala in Toronto is a premier celebration honoring Canada's 40 most dynamic and ambitious business leaders under the age of 40. The event features a red-carpet welcome, gourmet dining, and inspirational award acceptance speeches, creating an unforgettable evening for honorees and guests alike.

This exclusive black-tie gala brings together an elite audience of executives, entrepreneurs, investors, and media from across the country, offering high-level networking opportunities in one of Toronto's most luxurious venues. The ceremony is recognized as one of the most distinguished business events in Canada, celebrating professionals who have demonstrated exceptional career achievements, visionary leadership, and a commitment to community.

The evening is designed not only as an awards show but as a global stage for emerging leaders, sparking connections and conversations that can lead to real-world collaborations and long-term impact.

#### **About Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce**

"The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce exists to cultivate a thriving business ecosystem and collaborate with like-minded stakeholders so that members can broaden their economic horizons, inspire success, and contribute to a prosperous and vibrant community for generations to come."