



GRADUATION CEREMONY – BANFF TRAINING CENTRE
*CERTIFICATE OF ABORIGINAL LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE,
AND MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE*

FRANK J ALEC, LBN GENERAL MANAGER'S SPEECH
March 30, 2007

I would like at this time to Thank the Creator (Uduk'gh'uyh) for giving me the opportunity and the privilege to start my journey for the Youth of our Nation so that I could help in building a strong Nation for them. I thank the Creator for the people he has sent to the Banff Training Centre and their safe returns to their families. Also that the people He has sent became teachers amongst themselves and to every other participant.

My gratitude goes to Elder Tom Crane Bear for his wisdom, cultural and traditional teachings about his territory and people, his sense of humor, and he is definitely an inspiration to me. I would also like to thank Elders Andrew Weasel Fat and Elizabeth for their knowledge and guidance. Banff Training Centre and areas are sacred grounds.

Many thanks to my leadership of the Lake Babine Nation who supported me financially and with good encouragements: (2003-2006) Chief Emma Palmantier, Councilors; Wilf Adam, Herbert Williams, Frank Michell, Marilyn Joseph, Delores Alec, Robbie Reid, Dorothy Patrick, John West, and Millie Alec-George. Then from the current Band Council: (2006-2009) Chief Betty Patrick, Councilors; Murphy Patrick Jr, Melvin Joseph, Stephen Patrick, Gordie Alec, Ivan Leon, Delores Alec, John West, Garnet Williams, and Verna Power. I am inspired by their true Leadership values.

I would like to also thank my family; my partner Geraldine Alec and our seven children. Whom without their understanding and patience I would not be able to function properly on the work and training I do as General Manager for the Lake Babine Nation.

Thank you to the Aboriginal Leadership and Management team at the Banff Centre: Mr. Brian Calliou, Program Director, Janice Tanton, Program Production Manager, Dianne Gray, Mark Axehorn, Jason Touttit, Shanda Veneir, and Anna.

The faculty: Dr. Manley Begay Jr, Dr. Duane Champagne, Carole Goldberg, Dr. Stephen Cornell, Murray Dion, Dr. Bob Hathaway, Sakej Youngblood Henderson, Leroy Little Bear, Don McIntyre, Richard Price, Dr. Tim Raybould, Bernadette Sharpen, Jerome Slavik, Lewis Statt, Randy Swanson, Clay Norris, Chief Justice Robert Yazzie, Elizabeth Louge, and Jerome Hammersmith. Plus many other guest speakers for the evening sessions.

I would like to thank the scholarship partners as listed in the brochures: Nexen Inc., BP Canada Energy Company, Suncor Energy, Chevron Canada, Meyers Norris Penny, and Fortis Alberta for their kind contribution as scholarships. This has helped out a great deal financially.

It was an honor to have met the many Chiefs, Band Administrators, Non Aboriginal and Aboriginal Professionals in their respected fields who have made their journey to the Banff Training Centre and participated in the same programs I chose. With their participation I was privileged to hear the great stories of struggles and successes, and that they did their part of the responsibilities to make a difference.

My participation was possible because of the many skills each of the participants held during the process of our developments. In addition, our experiences have revealed good workable tools that we need to help build a Nation.

In closing, I found this program, “Certificate of Aboriginal Leadership, Governance, and Management Excellence,” to be very helpful in understanding the concepts of Nation Building. I am now convinced that with this program there are not just a few involved in developing a Nation, rather it involves Leadership, Institutional, and Individual commitments from one First Nation to the next. I am now prepared to move forward with the new tools of business developments which include Traditional and Cultural ways of Nationhood.

To me it’s not over, rather it’s just a start.

I will continue to encourage networking and for everyone to take advantage of networking as a support system, this also builds Nation to Nation strongholds.

In our language we do not have any words or a notion to say, “Goodbye” instead we say, “We shall see you again.”

Be Well.

Awitzeh’



**Frank J Alec of Lake Babine Nation and
Harvey McLeod of Upper Nicola Band receive Certificates**