



### **Dawn Madahbee**

Dawn Madahbee is the General Manager of the Waubetek Business Development Corporation, an Aboriginal Financial Institution that provides business financing and services to Aboriginal entrepreneurs and 27 First Nations throughout north-eastern Ontario. In her work with Waubetek over the past 15 years, she has overseen the investment more than \$20 million in 520 Aboriginal businesses throughout the region and has been instrumental in establishing several major community development projects. She is the first Aboriginal woman in Canada to head up a regional financial lending institution.

Ms. Madahbee earned a degree in Political Science and Law from York and Laurentian Universities. She also graduated from the University of Waterloo Economic Development Program. She has an extensive background in program development and management in the public sector. Ms. Madahbee gained her business experience through operating a her family-owned retail outlet in her home community of Sucker Creek First Nation for 12 years and through private consulting with First Nation communities in the Manitoulin Island area. She is currently serving as the Vice Chair of the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board with Industry Canada. She is also a former Chairperson of the Northern Ontario Development Corporation, a former director with the Ontario Development Corporation and Innovations Ontario. She is also a current member of several economic/business advisory committees to the Federal, Provincial and Sucker Creek governments.

Dawn is also a traditional dancer on the powwow circuit who enjoys participating in both traditional and competition powwows throughout North America. She believes strongly that economic and business development is the solution to the many issues that face Aboriginal people today.