

A sampling of those who spoke and some excerpts about what they said....

## National Aboriginal Leadership Panel

**Moderator:** George Lafond, special advisor on Aboriginal initiatives to the president of the University of Saskatchewan since 2003 and former tribal chief for the Saskatoon Tribal Council.



**George Lafond**

“Our panelists bring many experiences and insights about the economic decline. How we should stay the course, or in some instances, change the course.”



**Senator Nick Sibbeston**

“During the last 30 years in the Northwest Territories, Aboriginal people have emerged and are now involved in every aspect of society.”



**Senator Sandra Lovelace-Nicholas**

“I was a single parent, raised three children, I did everything, I picked potatoes, I made baskets, I made Christmas wreaths to sell, all to make sure my kids had food.”



**Tony Belcourt, Ambassador for International Issues, Métis National Council**

“The Métis Nation of Ontario has been looking into the prospects of mobile health units that can travel among different communities.”

**Senator Lillian Dyck**

[To the graduates:] “Refuse to give up. We need you out there.”



**Bob Watts, CEO, Assembly of First Nations**

“There is no real precedent for the crisis we are going through now... the future has yet to be written.”



**Senator Willie Adams**

“Use the time. It goes by much too quickly. I was invited into the Senate in 1977. That’s 32 years I’ve been in the Senate. And that was only yesterday.”



**Beverly Jacobs, President, Native Women’s Association of Canada**

“I find it energizing that what we keep talking about, is really happening here, students are meeting with employers and some are being offered jobs.”



**Kevin Daniels, Interim National Chief, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples**

“We know that every shock to the world financial system results in casualties and our people are highly vulnerable.”



**Senator Gerry St. Germain**

“In a recession people are going to renovate. They’re not going to buy new. There are a lot of opportunities here....”

