



2017 LGLA Leadership Forum

“Communication: Listening,
Connecting, Leading”

Keynote Address

“*The Power of Storytelling*”

Richard Wagamese

Wednesday, February 1st, 1:45-3:00 pm

Radisson Hotel, Richmond, BC



What Leadership Forum with a focus on communication would be complete without a storyteller? From earliest history, the most fundamental and compelling way people have communicated has been through storytelling. The driest subjects can hold an entire room rapt when we present them in the form of a story.

Join celebrated author and journalist Richard Wagamese at the 2017 LGLA Leadership Forum where he will speak about *The Power of Storytelling*. Learn from a master storyteller about the necessity of returning to telling stories to each other to build community, foster understanding and build a better country.

More about Richard Wagamese:

Richard Wagamese is a well-known Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Speaker and Aboriginal Storyteller. Born in Northwestern Ontario to Ojibway parents whose own horrific residential school experiences left them unable to care for their son, Richard grew up in foster homes before being adopted into an abusive household. He left at 16 and spent many years homeless, consumed by drugs and alcohol. Language and libraries provided his only escape.

Fast forward to today, and Richard is a celebrated Canadian author, journalist, and storyteller with an impressive body of work: six novels, a book of poetry and five non-fiction titles, including two memoirs and an anthology of his newspaper columns.

Richard has garnered a number of awards in different fields over the course of his career. In 1991, he became the first Aboriginal Canadian to win a National Newspaper Award for column writing. His debut novel, *Keeper 'n Me*, published in 1994, won the Alberta Writers Guild's Best Novel Award. He has twice won the Native American Press Association Award for his journalism, and he received the George Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature for his 2011 memoir *One Story, One Song*. He was also awarded the Canadian Authors Association Award for fiction in 2007 for his third novel, *Dream*

Wheels. In 2012 he was honoured with the Aboriginal Achievement Award for Media and Communications. Richard has also received two Honorary Doctor of Letters degrees, one in 2010 from Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops and one in 2014 from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. In 2015 he won the Matt Cohen Award in celebration of a writing life and in 2016 it was announced that his book *Indian Horse* was being turned into a movie. He is currently busy writing his next book.

We look forward to welcoming Richard as our 2017 Leadership Forum Keynote Speaker. For Forum registration, program, accommodation and other information, visit the 2017 Leadership Forum webpage at: <http://lga.ca/events/2017-leadership-forum-2/>

Please contact emorrison@lga.ca with your questions.