



Wanuskewin Heritage Park

Media Conference
Wednesday April 8th, 2009
10:00 am
Wanuskewin Heritage Park

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:00 am, APRIL 8th, 2009

The Board of Directors of Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority is very pleased to announce that Dana Soonias has accepted the position of Chief Executive Officer of Wanuskewin Heritage Park. Board Chair Lloyd Beazley said “We are excited about our new CEO. For the first time since the doors to Wanuskewin opened in 1992, we will have a First Nations’ person as our CEO. He will be a great asset and inspiration.”

Dana Soonias is a member of the Red Pheasant First Nation. He has a long history of employment with various financial institutions. He brings a wealth of financial and management skills to his new position at Wanuskewin, and he has also been closely involved with various ventures that promote traditional aboriginal values and presentations, such as the Sasapenita Project. Dana said “I have always had a passion for the mission and mandate of Wanuskewin. It is an important cultural and tourist resource in Canada and I look forward to guiding it on the next step of its development.”

Mr. Soonias assumes his new duties as CEO immediately. He will be replacing Pat Lorje, who has been working there on a temporary basis while the Board searched for a replacement after the former CEO departed last year. Board Chair Lloyd Beazley thanked Pat Lorje for her hard work and diligence on behalf of Wanuskewin. He noted that under her guidance, Wanuskewin was able to secure long over-due financing for a major construction and renewal project, as well balancing the books on operations and paying down a significant deficit. She leaves the job as Acting CEO with an invigorated and highly motivated staff in place to work with Mr. Soonias on the challenges ahead

Wanuskewin is currently closed for construction, and it is anticipated that the building will re-open for school tours and conference bookings after the long week-end in May. New exhibits will be in place in the late summer or early fall.