

## **Dwayne Bird – BIO**

Dwayne Bird stands as an inspiration in the Indigenous business landscape, making waves as an accomplished Creative and Branding Expert, Visionary Leader, Social Innovator, Marketing Strategist, App Developer, and Social Entrepreneur. He is the driving force behind three thriving enterprises; IndigPro, 1st People's Print Shop, and Mino Dawaa Indigenous Business Services.

Hailing from the Peguis First Nation in Treaty One Territory, Dwayne's journey is deeply rooted in his Ojibwe heritage. A graduate of the RRC Polytech Digital Multimedia Technology Program with a Major in Motion Graphics, Dwayne's educational background also includes a Radio and Television Broadcasting Diploma. In 2023, his commitment to blending traditional knowledge with technology garnered global recognition when MIT Solve Global Challenges selected Mino Dawaa as a semi-finalist. This recognition solidifies Mino Dawaa's status as Manitoba's premier Indigenous Business service center, offering comprehensive support for businesses on urban reserve lands in Treaty One Territory.

Dwayne's extensive two-decade career has seen him at the helm of transformative projects across diverse sectors, from education to healthcare, technology, and Indigenous governance. His role as Manager of Marketing and Creative for Indigenous Education at RRC Polytech saw him spearhead initiatives such as rebranding, the Indigenous Student Achievement Strategy, and the Indigenous Student Toolkit. Notably, Dwayne became the first Indigenous entrepreneur in Manitoba's history to be recognized as a Collaborator by Economic Development Winnipeg, Tourism Winnipeg, and YES Winnipeg, signaling his significant impact on the region's economic development.

IndigPro, under Dwayne's leadership, has earned five nominations at the Signature Awards by the Advertising Association of Winnipeg in the last three years, showcasing its excellence in marketing and advertising. Meanwhile, 1st Peoples Print Shop has rapidly emerged as Manitoba's fastest-growing in-house print shop, offering a wide range of services, from vehicle wraps to architectural finishes.

Beyond his entrepreneurial success, what sets Dwayne apart is his unwavering commitment to empowering Indigenous communities and clients. His visionary leadership, marked by integrity, transparency, teamwork, and ownership, has not only propelled his businesses to new heights but has also driven positive change in the lives of those he serves.

When not immersed in crafting innovative solutions, Dwayne finds solace outdoors, cherishing moments with his three children. His journey reflects a fusion of tradition and technology, embodying the spirit of Indigenous entrepreneurship that leaves a mark on both local and global stages. As a keynote speaker or panelist, Dwayne brings a wealth of experience, insights, and a commitment to driving inclusive and sustainable business practices.