

WORLD INDIGENOUS BUSINESS FORUM 2026



OCTOBER 26-28, 2026

RBC CONVENTION CENTRE
375 YORK AVENUE

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA

REGISTRATION

WWW.WIBF.CA

**MASTER OF
CEREMONIES**

JESSICA DUMAS

Professional Speaker, Coach, and Emcee
Canada



INDIGENOUS
LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE INC.



WINNIPEG
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Growing up, Jessica had no idea how deeply her life was shaped by the systems around her, as a young Indigenous girl, she just knew how to survive. That all changed the day her brother was killed by police. His death shattered her world and forced her to confront the painful realities of injustice, identity, and silence. In the midst of grief, she stepped into community advocacy and for the first time, began to understand the strength of her voice and the depth of her roots. As she learned more about her First Nations identity and the systemic disadvantages she had inherited, she also began to see something else: possibility. She was being exposed to opportunities she never knew existed. And with every door that opened, she became more determined to hold that door open for others. Jessica realized that helping people use their voice, to be seen, heard, and taken seriously, was not just something she was good at. It was her calling.

Her story is a masterclass in resilience. Jessica has walked through fire, overcoming violence, poverty, single motherhood, and the kind of trauma that breaks most people. With nothing but grit, vision, and a calling to lead, she built a business from scratch and transformed her life into a platform for others to rise. Today, she's known for helping her clients go from invisible to unforgettable, from "not good enough" to booked, paid, and in demand.

Whether she's on stage or coaching behind the scenes, Jessica ignites a shift in every room she enters. Her clients walk away with speaker confidence, clarity in their message, and the kind of presence that turns heads and opens doors. They stop hiding, start showing up, and finally take the lead in their own lives and in their industries.

Professionally, Jessica is the host of Speaking Up with Jessica Dumas on NCI FM and She Manifested It Podcast (with Jill Featherstone). She is a keynote speaker and a one on one speaker coach from Keeseekoowenin First Nation in Treaty 2, coaching leaders and entrepreneurs to use their voice confidently, to take up space in the board room and get paid to speak on stage. She delivers a 2-day Authority Speaker In-House Training and a 3-day Speak with Authority Immersive Training for leaders and entrepreneurs.

Jessica has been recognized for her professional expertise, she is a recipient of the Manitoba 150 Women Trailblazer Nellie McClung Foundation Award for 2021, Ace Burpees Most Fascinating Manitobans (2019), the 2017 Future Leaders of Manitoba and CBC's Top 40 Manitobans under 40 (2015). She has a 2017 TEDx talk called The Journey to a Woman's Identity, as well as a live recorded talk by Disrupt HR and Creative Manitoba. Jessica's volunteer contributions have gained her wide respect across Manitoba and Canada. She has served as Chairperson for both the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and the Indigenous Chamber of Commerce and continues to sit on numerous committees and boards at the executive level. She is a powerful role model and advocate for women's empowerment, leading others to overcome challenges by developing personal strengths, vision and self-confidence.

Jessica holds certificates in Advanced Business Design Facilitation from the University of Toronto and Rotman School of Management Executive Programs. She also completed the Advanced Program in Management, Leadership & Strategy from the University of Manitoba, Asper School of Business. Her Coaching is certified through the Certified Coaches Federation. She best utilizes her training in workshop facilitation skills and facilitation fundamentals. Her certificate training also extends to Restorative Justice, Communication Skills and Customer Service.

Jessica is proud to share her stories of overcoming, raising her three sons as a single divorced parent with 'only a high school education'. She loves her city, Winnipeg (Manitoba, Canada), and will tell you that she has seen the best and the worst of Winnipeg. Her passion is to encourage others who also have personal challenges to overcome, in pursuit of a dream that no one can see, but you. She believes that the very obstacles that you think are designed to hold you back, are the very strengths that will change your life, and if you have a message burning inside you, there is an audience waiting to hear it