

Leo Hurtubise: Pioneering Indigenous Business Leader and Co-founder of LaFlesche Inc.

Leo Hurtubise, a proud member of the Nipissing First Nation, stands as a beacon of Indigenous entrepreneurship and innovation in Canada. With over 38 years of experience in the plastic manufacturing industry, Leo's journey from humble beginnings to co-founding [LaFlesche](#) is a testament to his unwavering commitment to excellence, sustainability, and fostering inclusivity within the workforce.

Leo's career took a turn when he founded his first plastic injection mold making business in 1998. This was just the beginning of his entrepreneurial spirit. Over the years, he ventured into several other businesses, each one marked by a dedication to cutting-edge engineering and innovative solutions. However, it's with the establishment of LaFlesche that Leo truly made his mark.

As Co-founder and Vice President of Business Development at LaFlesche, Leo has played an instrumental role in transforming this Indigenous-owned plastic manufacturer into a shining example of success. The company's headquarters in Kahnawà:ke serves as a hub for high-quality, sustainably made plastic products that cater to various industries and offer an array of services such as medical device manufacturing, mold making, CNC machining, and sustainable plastics innovation. Leo's extensive experience as a mechanical engineer, and business administration has been pivotal in the company's continuous growth and its ability to provide custom injection molding services, prototyping, and product development that meet the highest standards.

Beyond his humble business acumen, Leo has consistently championed inclusivity in the workforce. His leadership has paved the way for increased opportunities and visibility for Indigenous individuals within the manufacturing and machining industries. As an Indigenous business leader, he has been a pioneer in promoting Indigenous participation in government procurement and Defense contracting, recently helping secure LaFlesche's place over 150 other Indigenous businesses to become one of the inaugural participants in Canada's first [Indigenous Business Defense Sector Contractor Accelerator](#).

Leo's efforts have not only elevated the status of LaFlesche, but also set a remarkable example for other Indigenous businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs. He has formed charity events on behalf of INDSPiRE, for his belief is "education is the way to make society better". Embodying his core values of innovation, sustainability, and integrity, he remains dedicated to excellence in manufacturing and to advancing Indigenous participation in all levels of business across Turtle Island.

