



Shudokan Karate & Education Canada Society

Successful Aboriginal business leader gives back to kids

Vancouver B.C., May 2, 2007 - [Shudokan Karate and Education Canada Society](#)



(Society) today announced the donation of \$10,000 to the Society from successful Metis businessman, **Gerry Gionet**. Mr. Gionet is President of [Aqua Industrial Ltd.](#) (Aqua), a 100% Aboriginal owned and operated enterprise providing structural steel fabrication and steel erection services to the Oil Sands Industry in Fort McMurray, Alberta.

In a joint statement, Society President, Dave Tuccaro, and Sensei Toshiaki Nomada noted that "Mr. Gionet is to be recognized for his foresight, leadership and receives our sincerest thanks for giving back to underprivileged children and youth."

Shudokan is a non-profit society intended to help Aboriginal and inner city children and youth move forward in education and life through the practice of martial arts. Since its inception, it has had over 400 hundred students join up, and is now in its fifth year of operation.

In generously supporting the Society, Mr. Gionet said "Our company cares about people. If we can share our corporate success by helping less fortunate Aboriginal and inner city children and youth develop discipline, and self-esteem, we are very happy to support the society."

A former practitioner of martial arts for many years, Mr. Gionet knows first-hand the benefits that flow from studying such a discipline. He said "Martial arts practice creates an awareness of the importance of courtesy and manners, and builds character--character that can lead to success in every area of life."

The lessons learned from martial arts are exactly what he applied in building his company: paying close attention to client's needs through listening and good manners, minding details no matter how small, and persevering through tough times.

As a result of his leadership, Aqua is now an established leader in the installation of steel and miscellaneous construction projects throughout Northeastern Alberta and the surrounding areas (one of a handful of 100% Aboriginal-owned corporations that operates within the skilled trade designation). The company has now grown to a size where they can offer services to clients that were once provided by non-local and international corporations.



As with martial arts, Aqua was built on important fundamentals. Starting with small projects it has grown in size and has installed on hundreds of demanding projects.

Mr. Gionet comments that "To grow and succeed you have to have a strong base built upon important concepts that martial arts training can provide."

Important future events coming up for the Society will be the rare honour of doing a karate demonstration for the visiting Maori King on June 6, 2007 at the Grandview Elementary School in

Vancouver. The Society will also be hosting a visit of the top Japanese Karate Masters at a date yet to be confirmed.

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For More information on Press Release: Calvin Helin (604) 275-6670

For More information on [AQUA INDUSTRIAL LTD.](#):

Phone: (780) 799-7300 Fax: (780)799-7308

E-Mail aquaind@canada.com

Web Site <http://aquaindustrialtd.com>