

# Ontario First Nation Economic Forum 2016

Youth in Business

# A little bit about myself...



- My name is Mark Hill and I am 25 years old, Cayuga Nation, Bear Clan from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory.
- In 2008, I obtained my Ontario Secondary School Diploma from Brantford Collegiate Institute, later attending Mohawk College for a 2 year Business Marketing Diploma.
- At the age of 19, I was the youngest elected Councillor to serve on the Six Nations Council (currently in my 2<sup>nd</sup> term) and also a member of the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council.
- In 2014, I opened my own business called Whey Smooth Juice Bar, currently located on the territory inside Pro-Fit Health Club.

# How Smooth? ...



[WS Commercial](#)

# Whey Smooth Quick Facts

1. To date, we currently employ 7 individuals
2. Our main focus is to offer healthy food & drink alternatives
3. We are located inside a gym called “Pro-Fit Health Club” which currently has a membership of over 2,000 members and sees on average 300 visitors per day
4. A percentage of our overall annual sales goes towards an organization/charity for diabetes

# Challenges

- Process on government grant programs
  - Business Plan projections
  - Staffing Daily operations
- Overall creation of the business operation
  - Balancing work and personal life
- Negativity – erase it, right away! Stay Positive

# Successes

- Opened the first healthy hub on Six Nations
  - Helping our consumers live a healthier lifestyle
- Received 2 grant programs to help get started (Two Rivers Development, Waubetek)
  - Year 2 was beyond Profitable
- Negotiating another location inside Premier Fitness, Hamilton Ontario

# Next Steps

- Franchising
- Creation of my own Protein Product Line



THANK YOU!