
News Release

PROTOCOL FOR INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

On October 30, 2014, Indigenous leaders from Africa, Australia, Canada, Chile and Guatemala who attended in Guatemala City the 5th World Indigenous Business Forum [WIBF] signed the first PROTOCOL FOR INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. This historic gathering was hosted jointly by the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute Inc. (ILDII) of Canada and the Indigenous People of Guatemala.

The Protocol establishes a Global Network for Indigenous People throughout the world to create new business and economic development linkages and also exchange social and cultural traditions. One of the primary purposes of the Protocol is to enable local communities to participate more directly in the global Indigenous marketplace.

Chief Robert Louie, Chair of the First Nations Lands Advisory Board, spoke to the attendees at the historic Protocol signing and said:

"I am very pleased to advocate this Global Network opportunity for the 112 First Nation signatories to the Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management, who represent more than 150,000 Aboriginal People in Canada. I encourage Indigenous People from all corners of the world to sign on to the Protocol and collectively share their knowledge, experiences, strengths and hopes. By participating in this Global Network we can support each other to create jobs and opportunities. Everyone will prosper".

Chief Louie also acknowledged the dedication of the joint sponsors of the 5th WIBF:

"Many individuals in Guatemala dedicated considerable time over a number of years in order to jointly host this 5th WIBF with the ILDII. They all deserve our collective appreciation. These individuals also worked diligently to ensure that our discussions and information could be shared through translation for the benefit of everyone in attendance.

Chief Louie concluded his remarks by acknowledging three individuals:

"There are three individuals in particular that I wish to acknowledge and thank for finding the time in their very busy schedules to facilitate this 5th WIBF and also so eloquently address the Indigenous People gathered from around the world:

- *President Otto Perez Molina, President of the Republic of Guatemala,*
- *Don Tomas Calvo Mateo, Nim Winak of Santo Tomas Chichicastenago, and*

- *Maria Tuyac, Business Advisor, Indigenous Chamber.*

Chief Austin Bear, Chair of the First Nations Land Management Resource Centre, commented on the significance of the 5th WIBF:

“This 5th WIBF is historic. Consider what has been accomplished this week in Guatemala. The idea of establishing the Protocol started two years ago at the 2012 WIBF in Sidney, Australia and was discussed further last year at the 2013 WIBF in Windhoek, Namibia, Africa. The Protocol has been drafted and signed here today at the 2014 WIBF in Guatemala City. By this time next year, when the 6th WIBF is held in Hawaii, I hope that the number of signatories on behalf of Indigenous People throughout the world will multiply beyond all expectations”.

Chief Bear added his appreciation of the ILDI, located in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada:

“I am certain that all signatories to this new world-wide Indigenous People’s Global Network are extremely grateful to the group of dedicated individuals at the ILDI for annually working with the various international hosts to provide these WIBF opportunities for us to share our ideas and experiences. Our sincere thanks to all members of ILDI for their exceptional efforts, year after year. I would like to especially thank:

- *Andrew Carrier, Chair*
- *Rosa Walker, President and CEO*
- *Barb. Hambleton, Vice-President”*

Chief Bear closed his comments by mentioning the 7th WIBF in 2016:

“On behalf of the Saskatoon Tribal Council, I am very pleased that our First Nations and the City of Saskatoon will be jointly hosting the 2016 WIBF. I extend our invitation to all Indigenous People around the world to please attend so that we all can share our cultures and experiences. The future for our children and grandchildren will be very promising when we succeed in making our Indigenous People’s Global Network one of the most significant accomplishments of the 21st century”.

For further information please contact:

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