

**Indigenous Rights and the Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Genetic Resources**

**in a Renegotiated North American Free Trade Agreement**

**Museum of History, Gatineau, Quebec**

**November 1, 2017**

**8:30am - 5pm**

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) entered into force in 1994, creating a free trade zone between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Renegotiation of the text of the NAFTA was launched in August 2017, and is expected to progress rapidly to completion early next year.

Traditional knowledge including traditional cultural expressions and genetic resources were not directly addressed under the 1994 NAFTA. The Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs is seeking to include an Indigenous chapter in the renegotiated NAFTA. What it would contain remains uncertain, but at the least it could address market access and capacity building for Indigenous communities to help them to participate more effectively in international trade. But could it address the critical, outstanding issues of protection for traditional knowledge, cultural expression and genetic resources? The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and numerous of domestic, bilateral and multilateral treaties recognize the rights and unique contributions of Indigenous peoples. These international developments have highlighted the importance of Indigenous knowledge in fueling scientific and artistic innovation and conserving biodiversity, as well as the inadequacy of the existing trade and intellectual property rules for protecting such knowledge from unauthorized exploitation.

This Roundtable provides an important forum for Indigenous leaders and experts from the United States, Mexico and Canada, to discuss how to make sure that the objectives of NAFTA in promoting freer trade foster and promote the contribution of Indigenous peoples to the North American innovation economy and do not undermine the protection of Indigenous knowledge.

***Roundtable Draft Agenda***

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|  TIME | CONTENT | SPEAKERS |
| 8:30 am – 9:00 am | Coffee and networking |  |
| 9:00 – 9:15 am | Prayer and Welcome Address | * Elder Monique Manatch, Traditional Knowledge Keeper, Algonquins of Barriere Lake
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| 9:15 am – 9:45 am | Opening Remarks Participant introductions | * Oonagh Fitzgerald
* Bassem Awad
* All Participants
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| 9:45 am – 10:45 am | **Traditional Knowledge, Cultural Expression and Genetic Resources in context*** UNDRIP Principles and the negotiation of NAFTA
* The international protection of traditional knowledge, cultural expression and genetic resources: an overview of the debates and relevant processes
* NAFTA negotiations: recent updates
 | * Ruth Okediji
* Kenneth Deer
* Timothy Hodges
* Monika Surma
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| 10:45 am – 11:00 am | Health break and networking  |  |
| 11:00 am – 12:30 pm | **NAFTA and Indigenous Knowledge** Indigenous perspectives on current protections and gaps in protection for traditional knowledge, cultural expression and genetic resources under Canadian, US and Mexican domestic law | * Violet Ford
* Andrea Carmen
* Mindahi Bastida Munoz
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| 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm |  lunch and networking |   |
| 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm | **Rethinking NAFTA: Mechanisms to protect Indigenous knowledge, cultural expression and genetic resources** A practical discussion on possible insertions, high level principles, etc. within a renegotiated text. * What are some lessons from recent FTAs on the protection of Indigenous knowledge?
* How to approach the protection of traditional knowledge in the NAFTA text [Preamble; IP Chapter; Environmental chapter; indigenous chapter; Dispute Settlement]
 | * Preston Hardison
* Larry Chartrand
* Jesus Guadalupe Fuentes Blanco
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| 3.00 pm – 3.15 pm | * Health Break
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| 3.15 pm – 4.45 pm | **Rethinking NAFTA: Protection of Indigenous Knowledge in NAFTA 2.0** * What provisions should be included in a renegotiated NAFTA to support Indigenous innovation?
* What provisions should be included in a renegotiated NAFTA to protect Indigenous knowledge?
 | * Kathy Hodgson-Smith
* Esther Aburto Olague
* Susan Noe
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| 4.45 pm – 5.00 pm  | Closing Remarks, Next steps and Closing Prayer | * Chair and Elder
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***Participants***

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| Esther Aburto OlagueEsther Aburto Olague is Managing Partner at Olague, Zúñiga & Mendoza, S.C. (OZM) Legal Business Consulting Services, a law firm based in Mexico City. With more than 20 years of professional experience, she has developed her skills in corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, contracts, intellectual property, international and immigration law. She has been very active in the field of Intellectual Property and was appointed to participate as a Committee Member of the Indigenous Rights Committee of INTA term 2016-2017 and recently was appointed as Chairman of the awareness Subcommittee at the same committee at INTA.  |
| Bassem AwadBassem Awad is deputy director for international intellectual property (IP) law and innovation with the Centre for International Governance and Innovation’s International Law Research Program. A specialist in IP law, Bassem has served as a judge at the Appeal Court in Egypt. He also works as a head tutor and professor at the Master’s Degrees organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization Academy and an instructor with the Institute for Training and Technical Co-operation at the World Trade Organization. He has also worked as a consultant for the African Union and counselor at the Judicial Department of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates on IP topics. Bassem holds a Ph.D. and LL.M. from the University of Montpellier in France, and an LL.M. in international business law from l’Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. |
| Marshall BallardMarshall Ballard is the Director for the Business, Employment and Social Development Unit with Native Women's Association of Canada. The BESD Unit seeks to increase access to labour market participation for Indigenous women in Canada including developing opportunities for self-employment. We are doing this by forming partnerships on an ongoing basis with government, business and like-minded organizations. |
| Mindahi Crescencio Bastida MuñozMindahi Crescencio Bastida Muñoz is the Program Director for the Original Caretaker Program at the Center for Earth Ethics. He serves as the General Coordinator Consejo Regional Otomi del Alto Lerma in México. He has been member of the Joint Public Advisory Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. He is also an Indigenous representative in the Article 8j working group of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other related issues on access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. |
| Ismerai Betanzos OrdazIsmerai Betanzos Ordaz is the General Coordinator for Indigenous Peoples Rights at the Mexican National Commission for Development of Indigenous Peoples. She has promoted different actions to protect traditional knowledge of indigenous people, and has participated on discussion meetings regarding traditional knowledge, including the 10th Latin American Conference on Indigenous Peoples. She has also participated in the negotiation of special protocols to the International Convention on Biological Diversity and and has promoted the Mexican General Law for the protection of traditional knowledge associated to cultural expressions.  |
| Daniel CanoughDaniel Canough is a policy analyst for Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). After graduating with an MA from the University of Ottawa’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, Daniel briefly worked with the Indigenous Peoples Center for Documentation, Research and Information (Docip) - a Geneva-based NGO which provides support to Indigenous peoples attending multilateral meetings at the United Nations. Since January 2017, Daniel has been working at INAC’s Intergovernmental and International Relations Directorate, where he provides support on issues related to trade. |
| Andrea Carmen Andrea Carmen, Yaqui Nation, has worked for the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) since 1983 and has been Executive Director since 1992. She has served as a human rights trainer around the world, and was IITC’s team leader for work on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In 1997, Andrea was one of two Indigenous representatives invited to address the UN General Assembly for the first time. Andrea was the first Indigenous woman to serve as Rapporteur for a UN Expert Seminar and has presented at UN sessions addressing Human Rights, Climate Change, Sustainable Development, Traditional Knowledge, Food Sovereignty, Environmental Health and Rights of the Child. |
| Larry ChartrandProfessor Chartrand is the new Director of the Native Law Centre. He has been an active faculty member in the University of Ottawa Common Law Section since 1994, assuming the role of full professor in 2014. He has also served as an adjunct professor with the Department of Native Studies at the University of Manitoba, director of the Aboriginal Self-Government Program at the University of Winnipeg, Métis advisor to the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples, and director of the Indigenous Law Program at the Faculty of Law, University of Alberta. Professor Chartrand holds a Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta, a Bachelor of Laws from Osgoode Hall Law School and a Master of Laws from Queen’s University. He has published numerous articles and book chapters on issues of Aboriginal rights, law and governance with a particular focus on Métis identity and citizenship. |
| John CheechooJohn Cheechoo is the Director of Environment and Wildlife at Inuit Tapirit Kanatami in Canada.  |
| Kenneth DeerMr. Deer is a delegate of the Haudenosaunee External Relations Committee. He participated in the development of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples from 1987 to 2007 when it was adopted by the UN General Assembly. He participated in many UN world conferences on topics ranging from racism, sustainable development, the information society, and climate change. From 2008 to 2014, he was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. In 2010, he received a National Aboriginal Achievement award for Media and Communications. In 2015, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws by Concordia University. |
| Norma Don JuanNorma Don Juan is a National Coordinator of Indigenous Women in Mexico who has experience as an Indigenous woman in the exercise of economic, cultural and territorial rights. |
| Oonagh FitzgeraldOonagh oversees CIGI’s international law research agenda which includes policy relevant research on issues of international economic law, environmental law, intellectual property law and innovation, and Indigenous law. She has extensive experience as a senior executive providing legal policy, advisory and litigation services and strategic leadership in international law, national security, public law, human rights and governance to several federal departments including Justice Canada, National Defence and the Canadian Forces, and the Privy Council Office. Oonagh has taught at the University of Ottawa, as well as Carleton University, l’Institut international du droit de l’homme in Strasbourg, and the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo. She has a B.A. (honours) of fine arts from York University, an LL.B. from Osgoode Hall Law School, and was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1983. She holds an LL.M. from the University of Ottawa, an S.J.D. (Doctor of Juridical Science) from the University of Toronto, and an M.B.A. from Queen’s University. |
| Sipi FlamandSipi Flamand is of the Atikamekw-Nehirowisiw nation. He is trained in political science. He was also spokesperson for the Réseau Jeuenesse des Premières Nations du Québec-Labrador (RJPNQL), the youth branch of the AFNQL, from 2013 to 2015. He is a multi-disciplinary artist who does beadwork, music and pow-wow dancing. He is also producer and research with Wapikoni mobile and the RICAA (Réseaul International de Création Audiovisuelle Autochtone), where he tackles issues of governance and environmental issues. |
| Violet FordViolet Ford is a professor of indigenous legal traditions at Lakehead University. She is a legal practitioner who comes from the Inuit community in Nunatsiavut. She has past involvement in the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Nagoya Protocol, and WIPO.  |
| Dean FosterDean Foster is the Deputy Director for Intellectual Property Trade at Global Affairs Canada. |
| Jesus Guadalupe Fuentes BlancoMr. Fuentes Blanco is the President of the Consultative Council of the National Commission for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Mexico (CDI). He is indigenous Mixtec from Puebla, Mexico. He has extensive experience in indigenous issues and public policies aimed at indigenous peoples at the national and international level. Jesus is a Member of the Permanente Forum Expert on Indigenous issues of the United Nations for Latin America. He studied accounting at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).  |
| Mathilde GauquelinMathilde Gauquelin is a PhD Candidate in Political Science at Université Laval and Ghent University. Her project focuses on dispute settlement in trade and environmental agreements. Under the supervision of Professor Jean-Frédéric Morin, she helped create the Trade and Environment Database (TREND), which tracks environmental norms in 689 trade agreements, including provisions on traditional knowledge, genetic resources and biodiversity. She has also conducted research on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol in trade agreements. |
| André François GirouxAndré François Giroux, Secretary and Director, Trade Agreements and NAFTA Secretariat (LLB [Civil Law], Université de Montréal, 1992; LLM [International Business Law], McGill University, 1994; LLM [European Community Law], College of Europe, 1995; MBA, Université de Montréal, 2001) joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in 1995. He served abroad at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN in New York from 1996 to 1999, in part during Canada’s term on the Security Council, and as counsellor at the Embassy of Canada to France from 2004 to 2008. From 2008 to 2010, he was director of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Division, and from 2010 to 2012, director of the Office of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. Most recently, Mr. Giroux was Deputy Chief of Protocol of Canada & Director Official Visits, after having served as Ambassador of Canada to the Kingdom of Denmark from 2012 to 2016. |
| Rosalee GonzalezRosalee Gonzalez, Phd is the Co-Coordinator, Continental Network of Indigenous Women, North Region, and Faculty and Researcher, Arizona State University. She has served two UN Secretariats – Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) and Permanent Forum of Indigenous Peoples (PFII). |
| Kim GottschalkKim Gottschalk is a staff attorney at the Native American Rights Fund since 1982. Kim has worked on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in WIPO, and the UNFCCC process. |
| Christina GrayChristina Gray is a senior research associate with the International Law Research Program at the Centre for International Governance Innovation. Christina is Ts’msyen from Lax Kw’alaams in Northern British Columbia, Dene from Lutselk’e in the Northwest Territories, and Métis. She graduated from the University of British Columbia with an undergraduate degree in art history and later a degree in law. Christina moved to Ontario to article with Aboriginal Legal Services in Toronto, and in 2015 she was called to the bar with the Law Society of Upper Canada. Since becoming a lawyer, she has worked as a legal intern in Uganda and as a human rights lawyer in Toronto. In 2016, Christina was elected to the board of directors of the Indigenous Bar Association. |
| Preston HardisonPreston Hardison is a Watershed Policy Analyst for the Tulalip Tribes in Marysville, Washington, where he provides policy advice on incorporating traditional knowledge into natural resource management, climate change adaptation, and treaty rights to biodiversity. He has worked on the Cultural Stories Project, which is aimed at documenting traditional ecological knowledge for use in Tribal planning and environmental decision making. Since 1996, he has helped negotiate decisions in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) relating to indigenous rights to traditional knowledge and biological diversity and their role in conservation, and was a lead negotiator of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, concluded in 2010. He is currently involved in a leading capacity for indigenous peoples in the ongoing negotiation for a treaty on indigenous intellectual property rights to traditional knowledge, traditional cultural resources and genetic resources at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).  |
| Jeffery HewittJeffery Hewitt (Cree) is an Assistant Professor at the University of Windsor, Faculty of Law. His research interests include Indigenous legal orders and governance, constitutional and administrative law, human rights and remedies, business law, art and law. He teaches constitutional law, access to justice, Indigenous Peoples, art and human rights. |
| Dianne HinkleyDianne Hinkley has spent over 20 years working with First Nations on lands rights issues, archaeology and repatriations. She is the granddaughter of Askiwadick and Tchikoput from the Cree & Metis of the prairies, where her interest in First Nations history and cultures began. Dianne works for Cowichan Tribes, the largest First Nation in BC, as the Lands Research Director, and serves on several committees to Council including Environment, Specific Claims and Cultural Heritage. Dianne continues to work towards improved protection and recognition of First Nations Heritage sites and true history. She believes knowledge is the key to understanding and respect. |
| Timothy HodgesTimothy J Hodges is a Professor of Practice in Strategic Approaches to Global Affairs at McGill University's Institute for the Study of International Development, Montreal. Concurrently, Professor Hodges is Adjunct Faculty in the TransDisciplinary University, Bangalore -- where he is developing a new course on negotiating and implementing international environmental treaties. He is Principal Consultant at Timothy J Hodges & Associates, providing strategic advisory services across the globe to governments, industry, private non-profit organizations, and indigenous communities. Professor Hodges has over 35 years of experience as a career diplomat, including serving as Co-Chair in the negotiations of the Nagoya Protocol on genetic resources and traditional knowledge.  |
| Kathy Hodgson-SmithKathy L. Hodgson-Smith is a member of the traditional knowledge expert group at the Centre for International Governance and Innovation's International Law Research Program. She practices criminal and Aboriginal law in Saskatoon and has litigated in all levels of court. She has worked on numerous national policy initiatives for the Métis National Council (MNC). She has also given evidence at the Canadian Aboriginal Affairs Standing Committee on the effects of McIvor decision on the Métis. She has researched and presented on Métis Aboriginal rights law and traditional knowledge at local, provincial, national, and international forums and conducted research for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Canadian Education Association and the Canada Council on Learning and conducts traditional land-use studies for the Métis. Internationally, she also represents the MNC on the United Nations World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Committee on the Protection of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources, and on the Canadian Delegation to the Convention on Biological Diversity. |
| James HopkinsProfessor Hopkins is an Associate clinical professor, Indigenous Peoples law and policy program at University of Arizona, College of Law. James is Algonquin/Metis from Quebec. A former law clerk to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and a member of the Ontario Bar. Prior to joining the College of Law, he was an Assistant Professor with the Faculty of Law, at the University of Alberta. He graduated from Harvard Law School's joint Masters of Laws and International Tax Program (LLM/ITP) in June 2000. Professor Hopkins' area of interest is the intersection between trade, tax and aboriginal law.  |
| Roger HunkaRoger Hunka has over thirty-five years of administrative experience, including ten years as an adult trainer/educator. Roger has been directly involved as founder and or partner party to several non-for profit, charitable and for profit entities. The majority of these have been to accommodate and advance the social, cultural, educational, economic and political aspirations and needs of Aboriginal Peoples. Roger has served as the National Bilateral Relations Director for the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council, the Director for the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate, Producer for Mi’Kmaki the Map, Mi’kmaq Language Learning Series, Mi’Mac Business Finder, and Sedco Small Business Learning Series. Roger has also served as Executive Director of the Native Council of Nova Scotia, President of Mi’Kma’ki Development Corporation, as well as serving as director on the Boards of Several charities and not-for profit entities, and Advisor on “Indigenous Rights Development”. Roger has extensive experience in public speaking, including presentations at local, provincial, regional, national and multilateral forums on: social/economic development, environmental worldviews, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the evolution of the generation of rights to name but a few subjects. Roger has staunchly spoken and worked for the elimination of social, cultural, economic, political and environmental policies and abuses which demean the merit, worth, and capacity of the person, the health of Mother Earth and compromise the present and future harmony of humankind. |
| Shain JacksonShain Jackson (Niniwum Selapem) is Coast Salish from the community of Sechelt. He is an artist and a lawyer who has represented the interests of Aboriginal communities and organizations throughout British Columbia in relation to a broad array of issues. After years devoted to the legal profession in 2007 Shain decided to leave his practice to focus his attention on the many facets of B.C.’s Indigenous art. He is currently the president of Spirit Works Limited, a company focused on the design creation and distribution on authentic Indigenous art products. He is heavily involved in the movement to protect Indigenous intellectual property and the rights of Indigenous artists. |
| Dale LeClairDale LeClair is an independent consultant working on issues of Indigenous policy and relationships. He was formerly the Chief of Staff at the Assembly of First Nations. |
| Sara MainvilleIn April 2016, Sara joined OKT LLP to restart her legal practice in the areas of environmental and Indigenous rights law. Sara Mainville has a strong interest in policy and governance and she is strongly positioned to assist First Nations in negotiating Nation to Nation agreements for governance, health, education and economic development. |
| Monique ManatchMonique Manatch is a member of the Algonquins of Barriere Lake. She is Executive Director and one of the founders of Indigenous Culture and Media Innovations. Her work has centered on the production of media arts and multimedia arts. She has facilitated the development of Indigenous artists throughout Ontario and Quebec. Over the past 20 years Monique has produced several video documentaries about Indigenous issues. Monique was previously the manager of the Aboriginal Media Program at First Nations Technical Institute (FNTI), a post-secondary diploma program in partnership with Humber College. At FNTI, Monique facilitated training in the production of several notable documentaries and educational videos on Aboriginal culture. During 2015, Monique facilitated the production of several videos with the youth from Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg dealing with youth issues including bullying, missing and murdered Indigenous women, traditional Indigenous activities, and a fictional account of an Indigenous warrior fighting evil. |
| Sylvia McAdamSylvia McAdam (Saysewahum) is a direct descendant of Treaty peoples and is from the nêhiyaw Nation. She holds a JD (University of Saskatchewan) and Bachelor of Human Justice (University of Regina). Sylvia is co-founder of an award-winning, global grassroots Indigenous led movement ‘Idle No More’. Idle No More has changed the political and social landscape of Canada as well as reached the global community to defend and protect all lands, water and animals from devastation and climate change. Sylvia is author of Nationhood Interrupted: Revitalizing nêhiyaw Legal Systems (2015) and Cultural Teachings: First Nations Protocols and Methodologies (2009). |
| Martin MichausMartin Michaus is a lawyer with Basham, Ringe y Correa S.C. in Mexico City. He practises in the areas of Intellectual Property, Unfair Competition, Franchises, Licensing, and Litigation and Domain Names. Mr. Michaus was previously the President of the Mexican Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AMPPI). He is also an Adjunct Professor at different nationals and foreign Universities. |
| Viviane MichelViviane Michel is an Innu woman who carries the pride of her people. Being bilingual (French and Innu), she became militant and activist in her community of Maliotenam. She worked from 2007 to 2012 as a community worker for the Maison communautaire Missinak, with indigenous women who had been victims of violence. She was director of the Innu Nation for Québec Native Women from 2004 to 2010, followed by two years as vice-president of the organization. In 2012 she was elected as president of Québec Native Women, and has worked ever since to promote an approach of reconciliation, awareness and solidarity. |
| Loris MirellaLoris Mirella is Deputy Director of Intellectual Property Trade Policy at Global Affairs Canada.  |
| Amelia Reyna Monteros GuijónAmelia Reyna Monteros Guijón, is a Consultant at the national level in Mexico. She belongs to the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples and is one of the 3 experts from Mexico representing the country in the CEC. She is also an expert in WIPO and the President of the aforementioned organization. |
| Oluwatobiloba MoodyOluwatobiloba (Tobi) Moody is a post-doctoral fellow with CIGI’s International Law Research Program. Tobi researches international law and governance pertaining to intellectual property focusing on the protection of traditional knowledge and genetic resources. A former staff of the World Intellectual Property Organization’s Traditional Knowledge Division, Tobi holds a Ph.D. in global IP law from Queen’s University. |
| Gabriel NemogáGabriel Ricardo Nemogá is a descendant of the Muisca Indigenous People of Colombia, South America. He has degrees in PhD Human Ecology (University of California-Davis). Currently he is Full Professor at the University of Winnipeg. He is founder of the Master Program in Biosciences and Law, National University of Colombia. He has been a Visiting Professor at several universities in various Latin American countries, as well as in Canada. His research interests include biocultural diversity, traditional knowledge systems, indigenous education, bioethics and biodiversity law. He has worked with and for Indigenous communities in Mexico, Nicaragua and in different Colombian regions. |
| Sue NoeSue Noe is a senior staff attorney with the Native American Rights Fund (NARF). Domestically, her work focuses on Indian water rights litigation. Sue also has substantial international experience. Currently she represents Native American tribes in international negotiations at the World Intellectual Property Organization. The negotiations seek to secure protections for indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions, and genetic resources. Sue received her J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and earned an LL.M. in Environmental and Natural Resources Law and Policy from the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law. |
| Ruth Okediji Ruth Okediji is chair of the International Law Research Program’s (ILRP) expert working group on international intellectual property, traditional knowledge and genetic resources at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). She is the Jeremiah Smith, Jr. Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and serves as co-director of the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society. Her current research at CIGI focuses on the design of a legal framework for the regulation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge, with a particular emphasis on policy and regulatory mechanisms that can best align national policies to support indigenous innovation. Her project involves the development of case studies mapping and analyzing modalities for the protection and commercialization of traditional knowledge in light of emerging advances in science, and trends in regional/multilateral trade agreements and intellectual property harmonization. Professor Okediji continues to participate as a lead negotiator, amongst others, within WIPO’s ongoing multilateral negotiations to develop an international instrument for the protection of traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions and genetic resources.  |
| Derek OroszDerek Orosz is a Research Analyst at Environment and Climate Change Canada. |
| Sean PagerSean Pager is Professor of Law at Michigan State University and Associate Director of the Michigan State Intellectual Property, Information & Communications Law Program. He earned his J.D. degree at the University of California at Berkeley. Following law school, he practiced as a litigation associate at Howard Rice in San Francisco and clerked for the Honorable Judge James Browning on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Prior to entering academia, Professor Pager earned an LL.M. in International Law from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, while studying on a Fulbright Fellowship. |
| Dawn PritchardDawn Pritchard is a citizen of Metis Nation of Saskatchewan and Advisor to Metis National Council. Dawn was on Interchange from Justice Canada where she practiced law at Environment Legal Services. |
| Balsharan RakhraBalsharan Rakhra is a Trade Policy Officer at Global Affairs Canada and has worked on the trade and environment chapter of Canada's FTAs. Balsharan has been working in the area of international trade policy since 2003. |
| Graeme ReedMr. Reed is a Senior Policy Analyst with the Assembly of First Nations, where he advocates for the inclusion of First Nations in the federal, provincial, and territorial climate change and energy policy dialogue. |
| Shelley RoweShelley Rowe is a career public servant in the Canadian government who has worked on legal and policy issues relating to trade, competition, investment and intellectual property. Since 2009, Shelley has worked on international intellectual property policy issues, including in relation to Indigenous communities, in international fora, notably the WIPO, the WTO, APEC, CBD and the OECD, and has represented the Department in trade negotiations relating to intellectual property, such as with the European Union. |
| Martha SanchezMartha Sanchez is the Former Minister of Indigenous Affairs in Guerrero, and long time national leader of Indigenous women. |
| Emma Natalia Santiago MonteroEmma Natalia Santiago Montero is the coordinator of the Collective Bibani Ba’du (colectivo Bibani Ba’du) – an indigenous Mexican organization focused on the defense of the human rights of indigenous peoples within Mexico. She is a member of the Network of Young Indigenous Latin American and Caribbean, and also of the Indigenous Women for Ciarena A.C. |
| Mark Schaan Mark Schaan is the Director General, Marketplace Framework Policy Branch at the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. The Branch contributes analysis and advice on issues related to corporate governance, competition, bankruptcy and insolvency, privacy and data protection, as well as all of the intellectual property statutes. |
| Martin SimardMartin Simard is the Director of Copyright and Trademark Policy at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. Prior to this position, Martin was a Senior Analyst and then a Manager in the Copyright and International Trade Policy Branch at Canadian Heritage. He also worked for a number of years in communications for the federal government and for not-for-profit organizations in Canada and abroad. Martin holds a master’s degree from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University. |
| Monika SurmaMonika is a senior trade policy advisor with Global Affairs Canada, with current focus on NAFTA negotiations. Monika's past work has included services trade policy and copyright policy. Monika was called to the bars of British Columbia and Ontario. |
| Monica Velarde MendezMonica is a career diplomat and currently on commission to the International Affairs Directorate of the Mexican National Commission for Development of Indigenous Peoples. |
| Saúl VicenteSaúl Vicente is the General Secretary of the Unit of the Indigenous and Peasant Force 2015-2018. He is a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Civil Society Mechanism (MSC) in the Committee of World Food Security CSA 2017-2019. Saul served as President of the Municipal de la Hc and the City of Juchitán de Zaragoza from 2014-2016. He served as an Expert Member of the Permanent Forum of the United Nations for Indigenous Issues from 2011-2013. |
| Tuma YoungProfessor Tuma Young is one of Cape Breton University’s only full-time, Aboriginal faculty members where he teaches Indigenous Studies/Political Science. He is Mi’kmaq from Malagawatch Reserve. He completed his Bachelor of Arts in Mi’kmaq Studies from the University College of Cape Breton (now CBU); Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia; a Master in Laws in Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy from the University of Arizona and is presently enrolled in the JSD program at the University of Arizona. His primary research areas include analysis of L’nu worldview to see how traditional concepts of governance can be utilized in contemporary institution development.  He is also currently a working on a Birch Bark-Oil Project that is a CIHR Catalyst Grant for Indigenous Approaches to Wellness that will combine traditional and community research (using a two-eyed seeing approach) of birch bark-oil ointments in Mi’kmaq communities to mobilize and preserve traditional knowledge with chemistry science for better efficiency and deodorization of birch bark-oil ointment. |