Welcome!

International Forum of Indigenous Peoples

Our Mission…

Mission:

To share our experiences, challenges, and concerns regarding the future of our people and the future of our homelands.

Opening Ceremony:
The First Nations of Canada

Our Shared Understandings

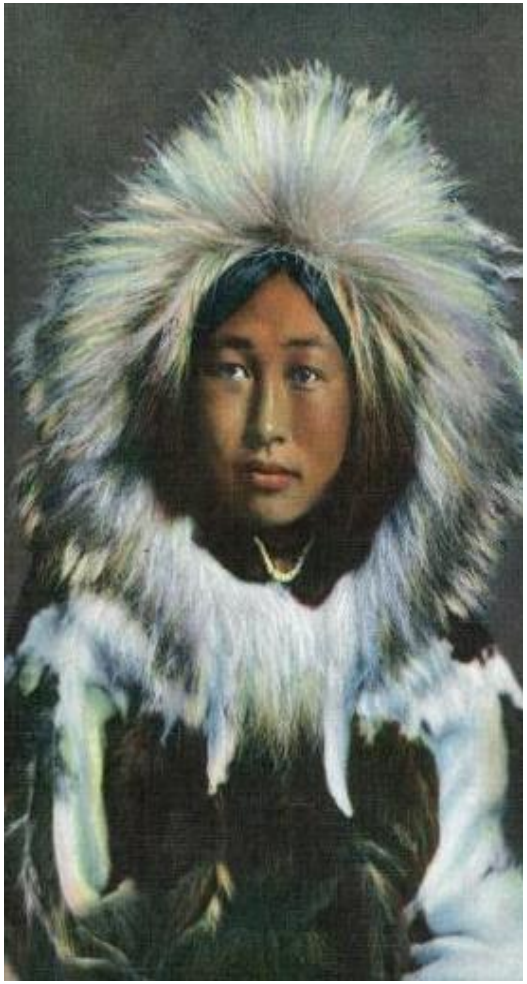
International Forum of Indigenous Peoples

We represent a very diverse population who possess common issues that affect us all…

Sovereignty:

the power or right
of a group of people
to govern themselves,
to make decisions about their own future,
to determine how to use their homelands and the resources on them.

Whether called "tribes" or "nations", indigenous people are self-governing. They were "sovereign" over their communities before the arrival of others to their homelands.



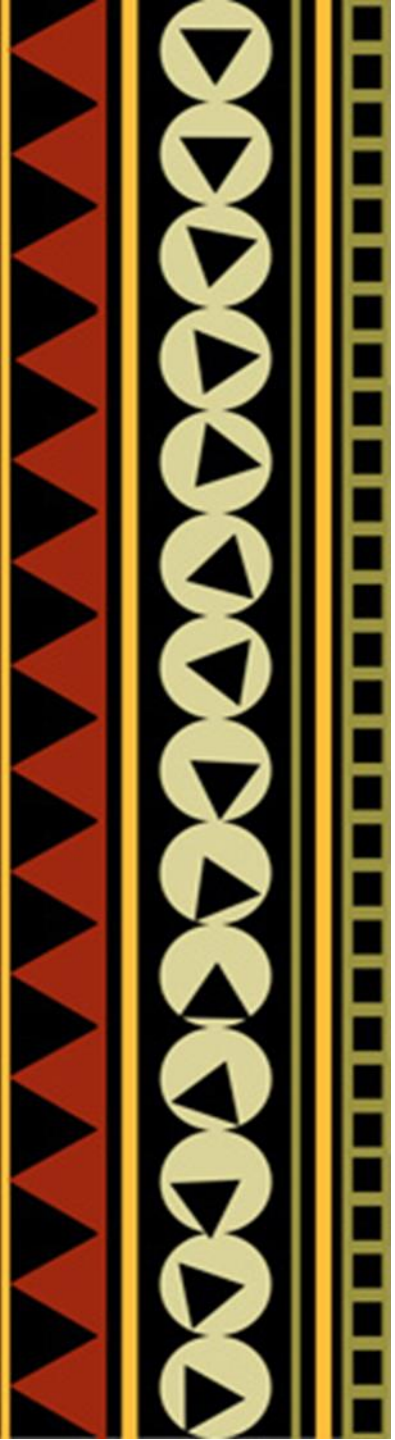
Over many years, interactions with newcomers have often led to conflict over the ownership and use of land.

Today,
indigenous people
still struggle
to protect our
"sovereignty"
in many ways and
many places.

This United Nations International Forum has been gathered to discuss and attempt to protect the rights of our indigenous peoples.

Shared Challenges:

* Recognition as independent, autonomous people
* Control over the natural resources of our homelands
* Authority to fully participate in society
* Preservation of our culture and our ways of life



The United Nations' *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* was adopted in 2007.

Today this declaration is the strongest statement on the rights of our indigenous peoples.

Excerpts from the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

(United Nations, excerpts)

"Recognizing that respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures, and traditional practices contributes to sustainable development and proper management of the environment…"

"Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination… They freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development."

(Article 3)

"Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs…"

(Article 4)

"Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture…"

(Article 8)

"Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories… without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples…"

(Article 10)

"Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures and traditions…"

(Article 15)

"Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop, and control the lands and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or use…"

(Article 26)

"Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands and resources."

(Article 29)

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Consider:

Most Important to You and Why?

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Deliberate:

Most important to us all?

Today’s Agenda:

Australia Treaty Issue

Tibet Grievances

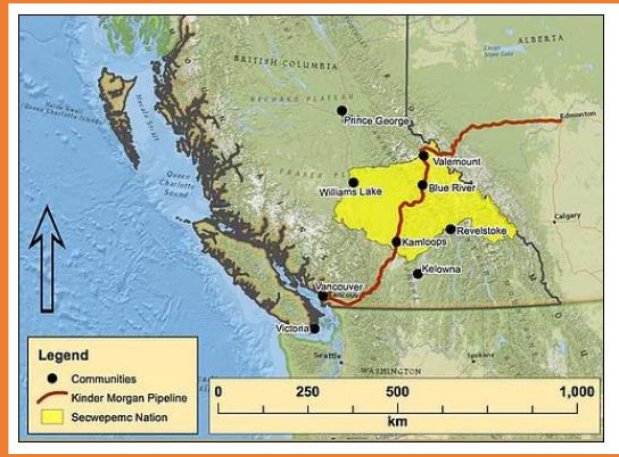
Sami Land Rights

Tuareg Nation

Aymara and Quechua of Bolivia

Mexico Autonomy

Wintu Water Rights



Canadian Pipeline

Resolutions:

- Declarations of grievances (problems)
- Solution or Course of Action to address the grievances (problems).