Background

The Indigenous Leadership Development Institute, Inc. is a non-profit organization established in the year 2000 to build leadership capacity in Indigenous people. We are run by Indigenous people and directed by a volunteer board reflecting the diversity of the Indigenous community.

By actively promoting good governance...by identifying needed training...and by providing unique educational and skill-building opportunities...we help prepare Indigenous people for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

We work closely with our communities and through partnerships and cooperative alliances, we provide rich and varied educational opportunities for our clients. For example, we may provide courses in self-governance, effective negotiation skills, or legislative protocol. Through our customized training communities will become stronger and govern more effectively, in topics such as: Government-to-government relations, financial management and accountability, Nation building, and Media training.

Our training is cutting edge and provided by our own trained and accredited facilitators with reputations for delivering world-renowned governance programs. Our commitment is to leaders – typically Band Chiefs, Band Councilors, elected Métis leaders, Senior Management, Executives, leaders of Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations, Administrators, Youth, Women and Elders who have identified specific training requirements.

In 2008 in partnership and at the request of First Nations leaders of Canada, initiated a Nation to Nation Forum with Canada’s Indigenous leaders and Native American Leaders of the United States of America. The forum purpose was to look at potential partnerships in economic development and capacity building. A follow up Forum was held in 2009 and branded “One Nation”, as viewed by leaders who attended the Forum in the previous year.

Former National Chief, Phil Fontaine was very instrumental in the visioning of these events; bringing them to fruition by inviting and involving leaders, to the table, for mutually beneficial outcomes. Mr. Fontaine is well known as a leader and role model in Canada. As a leader of Aboriginal Peoples of Canada, he negotiated the Residential School Settlement, acquiring the largest settlement of any kind, in the world; a financial settlement of $5 Billion dollars. He also negotiated the Federal Government of Canada’s Apology to Canada’s Aboriginal People’s.

In 2009 the ILDII attended the World Business Forum in New York City, NY. The outcome of our participation was a clear vision of a need to facilitate a similar gathering for Indigenous Peoples of the world. In 2010, the ILDII launched the first ever World Indigenous Business Forum; in partnership with the World Business Forum in New York City, NY. The event featured Keynote, James Cameron, Canadian Film Producer and Director. It was attended by leaders from across the globe; presenting an impressive lineup of speakers.

The event has grown with importance creating ongoing partnerships and economic development amongst Indigenous leaders from around the world. WIBF has been held in the following countries:

2011 New York City, USA 2015 Oahu, Hawaii
2012 Sydney, Australia 2016 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
2013 Windhoek, Namibia 2017 Santiago, Chile
2014 Guatemala 2018 Rotorua, New Zealand