



MEDIA RELEASE

March 2019

World Indigenous Business Forum 2019, Vancouver

PRIVATE PRE-LAUNCH EVENT

Guest Speaker: Dr. ERNESTO SIROLI (International Expert on Entrepreneurship and Economic Development, renowned TED Talk Speaker)

Date: March 27, 2019

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Vancouver Marriott Downtown

1128 West Hastings Street, Vancouver

Indigenous and Non-Indigenous business leaders and companies are encouraged to sign up for the 10th annual World Indigenous Business Forum as Vancouver gears up to host the international event.

“WIBF 2019 is a shining opportunity for Indigenous People to showcase our business and trade success to the world” says Rosa Walker, President and CEO of the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute, the organization that created and organizes the forum.

“Enterprising Indigenous peoples will be among the 700 business leaders from around the globe who are coming to our door. The forum will be bustling with opportunities for partnerships, insights and experience from across the world. Let’s make the most of that.” says Ms. Walker.

This is the first time Vancouver has hosted the event which takes place in October 8-10 2019, and only second time in Canada. The forum has a proven track record of connecting Indigenous businesses for the long term. The Vancouver programme will feature Indigenous business and assets, networking opportunities, cultural interactions, state of the art Indigenous business experiences and world-class speakers.

Former Chiefs and business leaders, Robert Louie and Keith Matthew, have been involved from the start. They attended the 2018 forum in New Zealand to accept the honor of hosting rights for 2019.



“I have seen first-hand what goes in at this event since it started. It’s impressive. I look forward to sharing our culture and home later this year”, said Robert Louie.

The first forum was held in New York City in 2010 by the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute in Canada. President and Chief Executive Officer Rosa Walker says Vancouver has what it takes to stand alongside some of the world’s biggest host cities.

“Vancouver is the perfect city to host the World Indigenous Business Forum as it has a significant presence of Indigenous entrepreneurs and businesses. We believe many interesting connections will happen, and previous links will be strengthened”, she adds.

Given the massive attendance of the 2016 edition in Saskatoon, and the most recent success in the Pacific Region in WIBF 2018 Rotorua (New Zealand), international delegations from Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Chile, and USA, among other countries, are expected to attend and have already started their registration process.

Event agenda:

10:30 a.m. - Welcome

11:00 a.m. – Introductions

11:30 a.m. - GUEST SPEAKER Dr. ERNESTO SIROLLI

12:00 p.m. - Join us for Lunch & Networking

RSVP: bernadettesmithcarlson@ildii.ca

For more information, kindly visit www.wibf.ca, call us at 1-204-940-1700, or contact:

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**World
Indigenous
Business
Forum**

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Introductions and Guest Speaker



Italian-born, Dr. Ernesto Sirolli received a Laurea di Dottore in Political Science from Rome University in 1976 and a Ph.D. in sustainable development from Murdoch University in Perth, Western Australia in 2004. He has worked in Europe, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Asia, South America, the U.S.A. and the United Kingdom in the field of local economic development.

In 1985, he pioneered in Esperance, a small rural community in Western Australia, a unique economic development approach based on harnessing the passion, determination, intelligence, and resourcefulness of the local people. The striking results of "The Esperance Experience" have worked in over 400 communities around the world to adopt responsive, person-centered approaches to local economic development modeled on the Enterprise Facilitation® model pioneered in Esperance.

Enterprise Facilitation has been documented in Dr. Sirolli's book: "Ripples from the Zambezi – Passion, Entrepreneurship and the Wealth of the Local Economy." Adopted as a textbook in many academic courses in Community and Economic Development, the book has helped to introduce Enterprise Facilitation to a new generation of economic development practitioners, mining companies and civic leaders interested in growing their communities from within, one passionate person at a time.

Dr. Ernesto Sirolli is the Founder of the Sirolli Institute, established in 1996, a social enterprise that teaches governments and community leaders how to capture the passion of their communities, using the intelligence of local people.

<https://sirolli.com/about-us/>

https://www.ted.com/speakers/ernesto_sirolli

Rosa Walker President & Chief Executive Officer



Rosa is a member of Peguis First Nation of Manitoba. She is currently the Founder, President and CEO of the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute, Inc. in Manitoba and was previously the Founder and Executive Director of Taking Charge! Inc. – a Federal and Provincial initiative for single parents to transition into the workforce. She was also employed at the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs as Managing Director, Workplace Diversity. Rosa worked with the Bank of Montreal in the capacity of Manager, workplace Equality for Manitoba and Saskatchewan. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Winnipeg, and is a graduate of the Social Work Diploma Program at Confederation College, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Rosa was a former Board Member of the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board, the Aboriginal Training and Employment Services, National Aboriginal Youth Association, Inc., and a Member of Inter provincial Association on native Employment, Manitoba Chapter. Board Member of Accreditation Canada,

Rosa was a member of the Faculty of Business and Economic Alumni Committee of the University of Winnipeg and the Global College Advisory Council also of the University of Winnipeg. She is currently a board member of First People's Economic Growth Fund.

Rosa is the recipient of the YM-YWCA Women of Distinction Award for 1999 and was named in 2014 Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100.



Keith Matthew



PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR-SOUTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA



Keith Matthew is a member of the Simpcw First Nation and is a former chief of the Simpcw First Nation. He served for five years as chief and five years as Councilor up until December 2010. As a Councilor and Chief with his community he was responsible for economic development and was instrumental developing a business relationship with Mike Wiegale Helicopter Skiing and helped negotiate ownership in a \$7 million heli-skiing lodge. He was the chief negotiator with Kinder Morgan Canada and Canadian Hydro Developers and delivered impact benefit agreements to his community with those companies. He also led discussions on a forest and range agreement that provides fibre and resources for the Simpcw First Nation and its legal entities. More importantly these agreements have provided employment and training opportunities in major projects that the community members wouldn't normally have an opportunity to compete for and work with companies that were formerly beyond their capacity.

As chief he also was responsible for negotiations but also oversaw the successful delivery of the impact benefit agreements referendum and benefits to his community. In order to take advantage of the opportunities there was also the creation of Simpcw Resources Group Ltd. and the creation of Simpcw Heritage Trust to manage own source revenues into the future for the upcoming generations of Simpcw youth and their grandchildren. This legal instrument will allow the building of wealth for the children of our community well into the future and will eventually be the main revenue generator of own source revenue for future generations.

The vision to create opportunities for Simpcw First Nation was understanding the Haida and Taku River Supreme Court of Canada decisions on the duty to consult First Nations communities. Shuswap Nation Tribal Council was instrumental in helping draft consultation and accommodation policies with the assistance of the West Coast Environmental Law. The building block for this was started with a consultation and accommodation framework that was passed by a majority of the Simpcw membership in a community referendum. Additional pieces to this policy framework were later developed with a map of the traditional territory and a heritage and culture policy addendum.

Currently Mr. Matthew is serving on the following committees as volunteer:

- Vice President of the Community Futures Development Corporation for Central Interior First Nations;
- Vice President of Cando (Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers);
- Canadian Energy Pipeline Association - External Advisory Panel;
- President for the National Aboriginal Energy and Power Association;
- Director for the Tulo Centre of Indigenous Economics, Thompson Rivers University.

He has his own company Seklep Business Services and works with First Nations' communities to negotiate agreements with companies that require certainty of tenure from major projects on unceded traditional territory. As well he has two joint venture companies and is a principal with both Skeetch Arrowhead Contracting Ltd. and Skowtum Services Ltd. Skeetch Arrowhead is involved in mine heavy construction and was awarded a major contract with New Gold Inc. and have finished their second season and has successfully delivered the contract on time and on budget. Skowtum Services specializes in survey, road and bridge design contract work and is currently working on Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain Expansion Project.

Keith was awarded his Certified Aboriginal Economic Developer Certification by Cando at a ceremony in Winnipeg at their annual general meeting in 2013. He also successfully completed BCIT's Associate Certificate, Venture Program, in 2012.

<http://www.edo.ca/downloads/keith-matthew-bio.pdf>

Robert Louie (Chairman)

Robert Louie, LL.B., OC, of Kelowna, B.C. is the former Chief of the Westbank First Nation. He is also the Chairman of the First Nations Lands Advisory Board and Chairman of Peace Hills Trust (Financial Institution). He served as a Board of Governor member with the University of British Columbia and as a member of the President's Advisory Council of the University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBC-O).

Robert Louie is also a former practicing lawyer who specialized in native law. Previously he was a member of a Task Group of the First Nations Summit, and was involved in B.C. treaty negotiations representing the Chiefs in B.C. for a period of 4 years.

Robert Louie has served on numerous other boards and advisory bodies, including the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board, First Nations Finance Authority Inc., All Nations Trust Company, Kelowna Chamber of Commerce, United Native Friendship Society, and the Premier's Advisory Council of Aboriginal Affairs.

Robert Louie has been the recipient of many awards and recognitions over the years. By far the most prestigious, was his appointment as an Officer to the Order of Canada. More recently, he was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from Okanagan College, the Queen's 2nd Diamond Jubilee Medal and an Excellence in Aboriginal Leadership Award from Xerox Canada/Aboriginal Financial Officers Association. In February 2014, Robert Louie was presented with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the Justice Institute of British Columbia.

He is also the owner of several successful businesses in the Kelowna area.



<http://landsadvisoryboard.ca/bio/robert-louie/>

Some additional background

<https://globalnews.ca/tag/wibf/>

<https://www.maoritelevision.com/news/regional/mahuta-opens-wibf-conference-rotorua>

https://twiends.com/wibf_ildii

https://international.gc.ca/gac-amc/campaign-campagne/trade-missions-commerciale/new_zealand-nouvelle_zelande.aspx?lang=eng

<https://www.colorado.edu/project/fpiep/2018/10/11/senior-fellow-dave-archambault-ii-presents-world-indigenous-business-forum>

<https://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/rauika/event/12737>

<https://www.mbcradio.com/2016/08/development-can-only-ever-be-indigenous-wibf-wraps-with-rousing-speech-from-international-development-leader>

<https://www.elmostrador.cl/agenda-pais/2017/11/13/wibf-2017-santiago-de-chile-fue-un-gran-exito-con-oradores-de-alto-nivel-grandes-patrocinadores-e-increibles-delegados/>