



## **Briefing note/Backgrounder**

The Indigenous Leadership Development Institute Inc. (ILDII), an Indigenous run not-for-profit organization located in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (incorporated in 2000), in partnership with leaders of host countries representing Indigenous communities initiated the World Indigenous Business Forum (WIBF). The most recent edition was held in Vancouver, British Columbia Canada, October 8 – 10, 2019. The WIBF draws attention to Indigenous Economic Development and is a Not for Profit initiative. Presently, ILDII is currently working on the very first virtual World Indigenous Business Forum hosted by ILDI, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Background:** In **2010** the ILDII partnered with the World Business Forum in New York City, NY, USA and launched the first ever World Indigenous Business Forum. 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.

WIBF **2011** was held in New York City, NY, USA. The interest in expanding economic opportunities grew even more and a group of Indigenous Leaders in attendance initiated a partnership with the ILDII to co-host the WIBF **2012** in Sydney, Australia. Representatives from Namibia, Africa proposed to host and this was held in October **2013**.

The delegation from Guatemala put forward a proposition to host the WIBF **2014** and this was done in Guatemala City, Guatemala in October 2014. The “Guatemala Protocol” for Indigenous Economic Development was signed by delegates from around the world, committing to work together to create a Global Network of Indigenous Entrepreneurs. This work continues with the support of the Canadian Government through the Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. The Network now has chapters in seven countries: Canada, Chile, Guatemala, New Zealand, Australia, United States, Namibia, Africa.

Additionally, the WIBF was held in Honolulu, Hawaii in **2015**. The “WIBF day” was created by the Governor of Hawaii to acknowledge the Forum.

The WIBF held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in **2016**, attracted close to one thousand enterprise minded people from 11 different countries. During the plenaries, a new definition for “Indigenous Development” was proposed, discussed, voted and agreed. As a result it changed the Wikipedia definition.

WIBF **2017** was in Santiago, Chile and the first ever Indigenous Trade Mission was held at WIBF **2018** in Rotorua, New Zealand led by Omar Alghabra, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade Diversification, CA. Something very special transpired during the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition WIBF **2019** Vancouver: the signature of an agreement between the World Indigenous Business Network and the Founders and Owners of Mercato Metropolitano, for the presence of Organic Indigenous Products in the most important markets in the world! The agreement was facilitated by Dr. Ernesto Sirolli, from Sirolli Institute, and signed by Andrea Rasca and Amedeo Claris from the Mercato Metropolitano, Rosa Walker CEO of ILDI and Founder of WIBF, Chief Robert Louie from WIBN Canada, Maria Tuyuc as President of Global WIBN and Guatemala Chapter, and Felix Queupul from WIBN Chile Chapter.

An impressive series of speakers have graced the stages of WIBF with very important information and knowledge about Indigenous economic development, to name a few: Phil Fontaine Fmr. National Chief, Canada; Don Schroeder President and CEO, Tim Hortons; Alejandro Toledo Fmr President of Peru; César Gaviria Fmr President of Colombia; Rigoberta Menchu Nobel Peace Prize Winner; Guatemala, Val Kilmer, Actor and Philanthropist, USA; David Chartrand President of Manitoba Metis Federation; Buffy Sainte-Marie Singer/Songwriter; Otto Molina Perez, Fmr President of Guatemala; Carol Anne Hilton, CEO of Transformation Canada; Sheena Graham, SPO, Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia; Ernesto Sirolli, CEO - Sirolli Institute (USA); Navi Radjou, Scholar (USA/France/India), Jacqui Caine, New Zealand Ambassador to Chile; Patricia Peña, Canadian Ambassador to Chile; Raj Patel, award winning writer, activist and academic, UK.

***The event has grown with importance creating ongoing partnerships  
and economic development amongst Indigenous leaders  
from around the world.***