



CALL FOR SESSIONS
Deadline: February 1, 2010

IFIP's Ninth Annual Conference
Tofino, Vancouver Island

Building and Sustaining Coalitions:
Finding Common Ground for Education,
Environment and Human Rights Advocacy

May 15, 16, 17
with post site visits on May 18th, 2010

Proposal Deadline: **January 25, 2010**

Submit to: evelyn@internationalfunders.org

Further Information: **call 1-518-358-9500 (EST)**

Please note: funding and solicitation is not permitted during the conference

International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) is an affinity group of the Council on Foundations and currently serves more than 200 individual and institutional grantmakers who are committed to sharing knowledge, building coalitions, and increasing funding to Indigenous Peoples.

A special feature of IFIP conferences—somewhat unique among donor affinity groups—is the opportunity to network and engage in person-to-person exchanges of cultural learning with grantmakers, NGOs, and Indigenous leaders from around the world. The presence of Indigenous leaders at IFIP conferences provides greater immediacy, poignancy, and relevancy to donor discussions of grantmaking methodologies.

Conference Overview

More than 130 participants will gather at IFIP's 2010 Conference in beautiful Tofino, Vancouver Island, British Columbia to share and learn from each other. Our main conference sessions will be held at Tin-Wis Resort, owned by the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations and named "BC Aboriginal Business of the Year" for 2008 by the British Columbia Achievement Foundation and also "Strength in Marketing" award from Aboriginal Tourism Association of BC.

Post-site visits include the opportunity to explore the region's exquisite beauty and rich biological and cultural diversity with members of the International Society of Ethnobiology; or attend the May 18th meeting of Mission Related Investment (MRI) conducted by Confluence Philanthropy.

IFIP's 2010 Conference will explore emerging trends in Indigenous Philanthropy, with a focus on **coalition-building** to enhance donors' effectiveness, increase grantees' capacity, and ensure program sustainability.

Tofino, Vancouver Island

IFIP is excited to hold our 9th annual conference in Tofino, Vancouver Island. This temperate coastal region of British Columbia has unparalleled beauty, rich biological diversity, and a vibrant culture of Indigenous Peoples.

In selecting this locale, IFIP first and foremost recognizes the advances that First Nations in Canada have made. We wish to stand with them to influence the Canadian government to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Canada is one of only 3 nations (along with the U.S. and New Zealand) that have voted against this declaration on Indigenous rights.

Secondly, IFIP recognizes the sovereignty of traditional territories of coastal First Nations and recognizes that its victories are a model for other Indigenous communities to replicate. By holding our conference in Tofino, we hope to inspire support for similar efforts in Canada, and elsewhere in the world.

Finally, in the spirit of collaboration, we are delighted to be working with the International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE) to experience and learn about this beautiful part of the world from their coalition of scientists, academics, and First Nations people who live here and continue building relationships with each other. ISE has prepared excellent background information on the region and has graciously allowed IFIP to include their research and documentation in these and other conference materials.

Eligibility:

Session proposals may be submitted by:

- Individual donors whom have given \$10,000 or more in grants to Indigenous causes
- Individuals who work in IFIP member institutions
- International and Regional grantmaking organizations

For Accepted Sessions Only:

ONE speaker from each accepted session will receive:

- Waiver for the registration fee of IFIP's 2010 conference
- Complimentary lodging for May 14, 15 16 and 17 at the conference site in shared rooms with other speakers. The subsidy is for one speaker per accepted session, only.

IFIP strongly encourages that this support be used for Indigenous speakers. All other speakers invited to participate in accepted sessions are expected to pay for their own travel, lodging, and conference registration expenses.

Session Development:

- Sessions should have no more than four speakers
- Content should contain current information relevant to the conference theme ***Building and Sustaining Coalitions: Finding Common Ground for Education, Environment, and Human Rights Advocacy.*** If you are uncertain about your session's relevancy to the theme, please contact IFIP at 1-518-358-9500.
- New this year: sessions should serve donors' who identify with tiered levels of experience, as defined below. IFIP may request modifications to accepted proposals, to serve donors of particular level(s).
- Eligible applicants may submit more than one session proposal.
- All sessions should discuss the grantmaking process and/or how partnerships in the field can be most effective. Models to be emulated should be shared, with discussion of ways to adopt and adapt successful methodologies to other projects.
- Sessions should provide strategies for donors to become more effective in their portfolio analysis and grantmaking to Indigenous programs.
- Sessions should represent different points of view and must include Indigenous representation along with donor perspectives.
- Sessions should be highly interactive among speakers and audience.
- Each session will be 90 minutes, including introductions, panelist discussions, and Q&A

Convergent Tracks

The convergence of environmental, economic, and social crises around the world is leading to more holistic thinking about the interrelatedness of complex issues. In philanthropy, there is significant benefit to looking beyond segmentation of issues, program areas, and geographic designations. In so doing, we begin to explore how human rights are synonymous with environmental issues; justice is related to health and education; and local food sovereignty is on par with the cultural impacts of globalization.

We encourage session presenters and conference participants to look for opportunities to weave together seemingly separate and unrelated issues and geographic territories to consider ways in which funding coalitions and partnerships can be leveraged to support more Indigenous Peoples and their projects in more places.

Track 1: Transformative Education

This track will examine ways to advance the aspirations and educational rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the transmission of spiritual beliefs, culture, ways of being, identity with place, and language.

Within our lifetimes, the voices, wisdom, stories, and dreams of many of the world's Indigenous Peoples will be silenced forever, as the transmission of culture between generations is severed. With the loss of thousands of languages, dances, tribal arts, and traditional practices, humanity loses cultural diversity, along with the elders' deep knowledge of ecosystems, properties of plant-life, and models for adaptive and sustainable living in myriad habitats of the planet. At the same time, Indigenous Peoples are engaged in contemporary efforts to decolonise their minds by questioning Western education and formal religion, to regenerate languages and cultural traditions, and to hybridise local and newly acquired beliefs. These trends are all testimony to the resilience of Indigenous knowledge systems in the face of global change.

Conference sessions may demonstrate methods to accelerate the conveyance of Indigenous epistemology (ways of knowing, education, philosophy, and research); protect and enhance Indigenous spiritual beliefs, governance, culture and languages; advance the social, economic, and political status of Indigenous Peoples; transmission of knowledge from elder to youth and contribute to the well-being of Indigenous communities through access to higher education.

Track 2: Environment

This track will explore the ways to support Indigenous communities in their long standing stewardship practices as well as their efforts to cope with political and economic challenges their communities face in maintaining sustainable livelihoods, health, spirituality, food security, and sovereignty.

Indigenous Peoples are carrying a double burden of environmental issues: they are on the front lines of the climate crisis, bearing the immediate consequences of flooding, drought, and disruptions to their rhythmic relationships with nature. And, while 80% of the remaining bio-diversity regions on earth are on Indigenous territories, Indigenous Peoples capacity to sustainably manage natural lands is being undermined by governments and powerful interests that would deny Indigenous People's their land and resource rights in order to siphon off anticipated revenues generated by carbon sequestration and mitigation schemes.

Sessions may explore Indigenous Peoples' role at COP 15; their knowledge and adaptation to climate change; participation in the International Year of Biodiversity (2010) and preparations for COP 10 of the CBD; Indigenous views regarding REDD; Mining, forestry, and petroleum extraction on Indigenous lands; Species extinction and conservation; Toxic contamination and consequences; Maritime issues, fisheries, spawning grounds, and aquacultures; Bio-cultural rights and bio-prospecting; Eco-tourism.

Track 3: Human Rights Advocacy

This track examines ways to support Indigenous communities that are mobilizing to protect ancestral territories, defend livelihoods, and safeguard human rights. Central to this track will be the understanding of provisions of the UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and ways to apply its principles in funding decisions.

With a combined population of 370 million spread across six continents, the totality of diverse Indigenous Peoples make up the world's largest minority. Despite landmark advances in land claim settlements and reparations, Indigenous Peoples still face enormous obstacles to asserting their human rights. There are legal barriers to Indigenous Peoples who seek to protect their unique cultures and languages, or make claims to protect their territories. 144 countries have adopted the UNDRIP (with notable exceptions of Canada, US, New Zealand) yet its provisions lack the weight of a legally binding agreement.

Conference sessions may include exploration of Indigenous autonomy as a political model of defending Indigenous rights and culture; Guiding principles of UNDRIP, such as rights to self determination and the "Free, prior, and

informed consent” provision; land rights; impact of displacement; food sovereignty; health; constitutional guarantees; legislation; conservation; bio-cultural rights, bio-prospecting; and Indigenous sovereignty.

Participant Levels

New this year, conference sessions will be identified as most appropriate for:

- 1) **Novice donors** who are new to Indigenous funding and learning the basics;
- 2) **Engaged donors** who are ready to begin or continue funding Indigenous causes and are looking for “how-to” tools and support;
- 3) **Leadership donors** who are expanding on their knowledge, building coalitions, and using their experience to support others in the field.

A limited number of sessions may be identified as serving two consecutive levels. Conference participants may choose to attend sessions of any level.

Planning Committee

IFIP thanks these devoted members for their guidance and expertise:

- **Gary Martin**, Executive Director, Global Diversity Foundation and Co-chair of Planning Committee
- **Timothy R. Dykman**, Co-Director, Ocean Revolution, A Project of the Ocean Foundation and Co-chair of Planning Committee
- **James Stauch**, Vice President, Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation and IFIP Board Member
- **Scott Rehmus**, CEO and **Neil Philcox**, Director of Projects, Coast Opportunity Funds
- **Elena Moreno**, Executive Director, Circulos
- **John Kenny** and **Paul Kenny**, Kenny Family Foundation
- **Susan Smitten**, Communications Director, RAVEN, Respecting Aboriginal Values & Environmental Needs
- **Anne Henshaw**, Ph.D. Program Officer, Oak Foundation
- **Susan Balbas**, Executive Director, Tierra Madre Fund
- **Marion Gracey**, President, The Muttart Foundation
- **Cliff Fregin**, CEO, New Relationship Trust
- **Jennifer W. Grimm**, Arctic Funders Group
- **Ross McMillan**, Executive Director, Tides Canada Foundation
- **Meaghan Calcari**, Program Officer, Betty and Gordon Moore Foundation
- **Lilian Autler**, Institutional Giving Coordinator, Grassroots International



2010 Conference Call for Sessions

Send submissions to evelyn@internationalfunders.org by February 1, 2010

1. Proposed Session Title

2. Session Objectives

What do you want participants to achieve by being involved in your session?

3. Proposed Track: (check one)

- Transformative Education
- Environment
- Human Rights Advocacy

4. Proposed Participant Level (check primary one)

- Novice
- Engaged
- Leadership

5. Session Description

Please write a concise, informative, action-oriented description that provides important facts and generates excitement about your session, keeping your session objectives and in mind. Maximum of 75 words.

6. Session Discussion Leaders

The maximum (including facilitator) is 4 speakers per session.
IFIP encourages Indigenous participation in panel discussions.

	Name	Email	Affiliation
Facilitator			
Speaker			
Speaker			
Speaker			

Submitted by:

Name	
Title	
Foundation	
Address	
Phone	
Email	