



OUR WAY

A Conference on
The U.N. Declaration On The Rights Of Indigenous Peoples
And
Indigenous Law-Making

MARCH 22-24, 2012

Co-Sponsored By
The Ariel F. Sallows Chair In Human Rights
The Native Law Centre
College Of Law, University Of Saskatchewan
In Partnership With
Oskayak School, Saskatoon

Conference Co-Chairs
Mary Eberts and Sa'ke'j Henderson IPC

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Thursday, March 22, 2012 (evening)

Welcome Reception – Oskayak School

Friday, March 23, 2012

MORNING

Opening ceremony and welcome – Elders and conference organizers

The U.N. Declaration as Indigenous Legal Tradition

Sa'ke'j Henderson, Sharon Venne, Celeste McKay, Wilton Littlechild (tbc) – An account of the strategies and activism that went into the framing and achievement of the Declaration from some of the key players in that process.

Children and Youth in the Declaration and Convention on the Rights of the Child: Hope for the Future

Dr. Cindy Blackstock, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada
Oskayak School and **University of Saskatchewan Youth Response** to Blackstock address

The inspiration for this Conference: An Honour Song for Kate and Trish Monture

Tracy Lindberg, family and friends of Kate and Trish

LUNCH LODGES

Conference attendees will take part in discussions on their observations and recommendations on “The Way Forward”. Information gathered at the Lunch Lodges will be brought forward during the final afternoon session on March 24. (See *list of Lunch Lodge Topics at end of Program*).

Friday, March 23, 2012 continued

AFTERNOON

Their Way: Bringing Indigenous Law into Canadian Courts and Legal System

L. Jane McMillan, St. Xavier's University – the Mi'kmaq Justice Institute

Peter Grant and **Louise Mandell** – Reflections of Settler Counsel

Brenda Gunn, Faculty of Law, U of Manitoba – Indigenous Bar Association Initiative on Elder Evidence in Federal Court

Robert Lovelace – Ardoch Algonquin First Nation and the Rule of Law

Our Way: Revitalizing Indigenous Law

Marie Battiste, Faculty of Education, U of S – Indigenous Knowledge Foundations

Val Napoleon, U of Victoria – Revitalizing Indigenous Law

Bev Jacobs, U of Calgary – Great Law of Peace

Keith Goulet – Cree Law of Property

We are Doing it Our Way: First Nations Examples

Kelly Connor and **Troy Donovan Hunter** – Stsmémelt Project, BC

Victoria Fred – Yukon

Oskayak School – Student Presentation

EVENING

Banquet including Youth Recognition and Entertainment

Saskatoon Indian & Métis Friendship Centre

Saturday, March 24, 2012

MORNING

Women as Law-Keepers: Revitalization and Challenges

Rauna Kuokkanen, U of Toronto

Tracy Lindberg, Athabasca University

Joyce Green, U of Regina

Sylvia McAdam – Research on Cree Methodologies

Teresa Edwards – Native Women's Association of Canada

Young Scholars and Activists Finding Our Way

Aaron Mills, Anishnaabek Law, Yale University

Sarah Morales, Coast Salish Law, U of Ottawa

Jaime Battiste, Mi'kmaq Law (tbc)

Hadley Friedland, Cree Law, U of Alberta

Dawnis Kennedy, Anishnaabek Law, SJD Candidate, U of Toronto

Making Space for Our Way

Robert Morales (tbc) – Hul-qumi-num Treaty Group Challenge in Inter-American Court of Human Rights

Wanda McCaslin, U of S, Native Law Centre

Kiera Ladner, U of Manitoba – A cautionary note about Charter/constitutional litigation

Sherri Helgason and **Margaret Froh** – Role of Canadian human rights bodies in realizing the Declaration

Youth Response – what should the strategies be?

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Saturday, March 24, 2012 continued

AFTERNOON

Madeleine Redfern, Nunavut – Doing Things Our Way and Reconciliation

Reports from the Lunch Lodges

Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Representative Wilton Littlechild (tbc) – Concluding Remarks

LUNCH LODGE TOPICS

Elders – The role of Elders in revitalizing Indigenous culture and social ordering; how to pass on knowledge and inspire the youth – Walter and Maria Linklater to lead

Youth Caucus – The vision of youth for doing things “Our Way” – what would it look like, and what is necessary to bring it into being? – Ryan Moccasin and Annie Battiste to lead

Ethical Allies – The role of ethical allies in making space for Indigenous law-making and realizing the guarantees of the Declaration – Victoria Freeman, Melissa Williams, Paulette Regan to lead

Violence Against Women – Returning to traditional ways of social ordering: what difference it would make in the way we deal with violence against women – Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik to lead

Environment and Land – How Our Way would change the way the land is protected – Robert Lovelace to lead

Flourishing of Children – Sharing of strategies for protecting and educating young people, within their own Nations, so that they flourish and can participate in the revitalization of culture and community – Stsmémelt Project to lead

NOTE: *Conference Program is subject to minor revision as details are further developed.*

