

# The Sharing Circle

## Berresford Receives Inaugural IFIP Award

**F**ord Foundation President Susan Berresford was honored earlier this year as she became the first recipient of the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples Award. The recognition was bestowed upon Berresford on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 for her leadership in increasing philanthropic support for international Indigenous development projects and communities. It was presented at a special reception held at the San Diego Marriot Marina in San Diego, California during the Council on Foundations Annual Conference. More than 50 national and international funders attended the event to commemorate the new award.

"I am proud to have been at the Ford Foundation for over three decades in which several generations of staff and leadership all

enthusiastically supported the voice and action of Indigenous Peoples around the world," said Berresford in receiving the award. She added, "The [IFIP] award is a treasured recognition that many other donors will feel proud to accept over the coming years."

Rebecca Adamson, President of First Nations Development Institute presented the award, a native-made soap sculpture called "Transition." The original artwork was created by Oneida artist Cheyanne Doxtador from Akwesasne, New York. The traditional sculpture symbolizes a woman's strength and journey throughout life.

In presenting the inaugural IFIP award to Berresford, Adamson recognized the pivotal work of the Ford Foundation and its leading

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Susan Berresford, center, was honored by Anthony Pico, Chairman of the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, and Rebecca Adamson, President of First Nations Development Institute, for her work as a leading donor to Indigenous projects.

### Linking to Opportunities

*IFIP Conference Responds to Indigenous Concerns*

International Funders for Indigenous Peoples' held its fourth annual meeting in New York City on May 19 and 20, 2005, in conjunction with the United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples. *Transforming the Landscape of International Grantmaking for Indigenous Peoples* was an opportunity for donors who fund Human Rights, Education, Environment or Economic Development to speak directly with "neutral" representatives from Indigenous communities.

It was a historic and whirlwind of a week, in that five foundations (Ford Foundation, Aveda Corporation, American Jewish World Service, Moriah Fund and Honor the Earth) had donor sessions on Indigenous issues before IFIP's annual conference. The philanthropic community is taking notice of Indigenous issues. Issues that have been dreadfully ignored in the past.

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*The Sharing Circle* is a newsletter for members of International Funders for Indigenous Peoples. IFIP is an association of grantmakers who support, or are interested in supporting projects involving Indigenous People worldwide.

We strive to:

**Increase knowledge and understanding** of the unique issues related to funding projects that involve Indigenous Peoples by providing a baseline of information on issues relevant to the Indigenous context.

**Encourage innovation and increase effectiveness** within the grantmaking community by facilitating networking opportunities.

**Foster a cross-disciplinary understanding** of Indigenous Peoples and the holistic contexts in which they live and work.

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(Cherokee) Founder and President of First Nations Development Institute

**Evelyn Arce-White**  
(Chibcha Descent) IFIP Executive Director

For more information, see IFIP's website at [www.internationalfunders.org](http://www.internationalfunders.org)



Photo: © Ken Wilson Ph. D., Executive Director of Christensen Fund

*Executive Director Evelyn Arce-White, right, hands a Native-made traditional soap sculpture to Ford Foundation President Susan Berresford. A reception for IFIP's inaugural award presentation was held during the Council on Foundation's Annual Conference at the San Diego Marriot Marina in San Diego, California on April 9, 2005. Berresford was honored for her leadership role in increasing funding opportunities for international Indigenous development projects and communities.*

**FORD FOUNDATION**  
320 EAST 43<sup>RD</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017  
[WWW.FORDFOUND.ORG](http://WWW.FORDFOUND.ORG)

**SUSAN V. BERRESFORD**  
PRESIDENT

April 15, 2005

Ms. Evelyn Arce White, M.A.T.  
International Funders for Indigenous Peoples  
First Nations Development Institute  
2300 Fall Hill Ave., Suite 412  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Dear Evelyn,

I write to thank you for the great honor the IFIP bestowed on the Ford Foundation with its award. I am proud to have been at the Ford Foundation for over three decades in which several generations of staff and leadership all enthusiastically supported the voice and action of indigenous peoples around the world. Your award is a treasured recognition that many other donors will feel proud to accept over the coming years.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks and greatest admiration. The exceptionally beautiful sculpture by Cheyanne Doxtador will remind me of your courage and concerns each day.

All best wishes for continuing success.

Sincerely,

Susan V. Berresford

# UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples

In 1923, Haudenosaunee Chief Deskaheh traveled to Geneva in hopes of getting the United Nations to defend the rights of Indigenous People. In the more than 80 years since Chief Deskaheh's noble journey, not nearly enough has been accomplished.

Despite the cultural differences amongst Indigenous Peoples around the world, they all share common problems related to the protection of their rights as distinct peoples. Nearly all have sought recognition of their identities, their ways of life and their right to traditional lands and resources. In response, the international community recognizes that special measures are required to protect the rights of the world's Indigenous populations.

### The Working Group

One step forward in the march to address Indigenous issues was the creation of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP). Founded in 1982, this group began drafting a declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was completed in 1993. When adopted, it will likely be the most comprehensive statement on the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

At the opening of this year's session of the UN Permanent Forum, Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frechette told the gathering that Indigenous People are among the poorest and most marginalized

communities victimized by the effects of armed conflict. She added that the member states had not adopted the declaration despite years of negotiation and advocacy.

### Permanent Forum

Discussions to establish the UN Permanent Forum of Indigenous Peoples began in the late 1980s. Yet it was not until July 28, 2000, by Ecococ Resolution 2000/22, that the Permanent Forum was created with a broad mandate to deal with six main areas: economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights.

The establishment of the Permanent Forum was an important objective of the program of activities slated for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. It was created in light of the striking absence of a mechanism to ensure coordination and regular exchange of information among interested parties on an ongoing basis.

### Millennium Goals

The theme for this year's session of the Permanent Forum, held May 16-27 in New York City, was Millennium Development Goals and Indigenous Peoples. Its main goals are to cut the world's "extreme" poverty in half by the year 2015 (extreme poverty is defined by the World Bank as getting by on an income of less than \$1 a day) and to achieve universal

primary education. Ms. Frechette commended the Forum for its Millennium Goals and emphasized that in achieving them that Indigenous People must not be forgotten, discriminated against, or to remain marginalized. Other speakers highlighted the link between poverty and human rights and noted studies that have shown that extreme poverty disproportionately impacted on Indigenous People.

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Speakers stated that Indigenous groups had a right to participate fully in development efforts and poverty reduction programs. They also noted that injustices should not be committed that deprive Indigenous Peoples of their lands or traditional means of existence.

For universal primary education, several recom-

mendations were aimed at ensuring that education would not be used to assimilate Indigenous Peoples into mainstream society, further undermining their identities, cultures and traditional knowledge.

The impact of violence on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the plight of Indigenous women were among other significant issues addressed by the Permanent Forum. A representative from South Asia said that, as a result of the war on terrorism, Indigenous Peoples in her region had been hampered in their expression of democratic rights, and Indigenous activists were arrested, tortured and killed. Several representatives expressed concern about the victimization of Indigenous women as a result of armed conflict. Common forms of victimization are torture, rape and denial of rights to education and the freedom of movement.

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the Advisory Committee for the Permanent Forum said, "The event put actors together to discuss and produce concrete results in promoting Indigenous rights and development. Its strength is in increasing the visibility and awareness of Indigenous issues at the international level."

## Inaugural IFIP Award

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role as the leading donor of Indigenous projects and remote communities. Adamson stated that the Ford Foundation is, “the number one donor in Native giving and it has continued to be the number one donor for the past 14 years.” She further noted that, “Susan’s leadership, insight, commitment and integrity has been critical in supporting Indigenous Peoples.”

Anthony Pico, Chairman of the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians and a major sponsor of the IFIP reception, acknowledged the Ford Foundation’s long-standing work on behalf of Indigenous Peoples and also presented a gift to Berresford. A Pendleton blanket, called “Awakening,” was given that symbolized the profound respect and gratitude the Viejas Band has for Ford’s leadership in assisting Indigenous Peoples.

During the event, Berresford acknowledged IFIP’s efforts in becoming an independent organization, stating, “I am pleased that IFIP is seeking 501c3 status and is working to bring more donors to this area.” She noted, “I am impressed with the new *Indigenous Peoples Funders and Resource Guide* and know that IFIP will continue to produce important and quality work.”

In concluding the event, IFIP Director Evelyn Arce-White

remarked, “IFIP is truly a unique organization in that it is the only one focused specifically on increasing philanthropic support for Indigenous Peoples around the world.” She added, “The inaugural award represents another milestone for IFIP and, in particular, recognizes the work of a leading supporter of Indigenous Peoples.”



## Linking To Opportunities

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Since the first Linking Circles Conference in 2001, interest has grown from two dozen Indigenous leaders and funders to nearly 100 in 2005. IFIP’s network of funders dedicated to becoming more effective in their international Indigenous grantmaking portfolios continues to grow.

The conference brought together over 60 foundations and nearly 40 representatives of Indigenous communities and NGOs that support international Indigenous projects. These included representatives of the Ford Foundation, New England Biolab, Moriah Fund, Mitsubishi International Corporation Foundation, American Jewish World Service, and Indigenous leaders from around the world.

Issues discussed in the following sessions include:

- “UN Protection of Indigenous Rights and Resources:” Indian Law Resource Center Tim Coulter explored the efforts of Indigenous leaders and other advocates to use the United Nations to create new human rights protections specific to Indigenous Peoples and how the UN Permanent Forum and other mechanisms can be used to protect Indigenous rights.
- “Indigenous Peoples and Extractive Industries:” Earth Rights International discussed innovative legal and policy strategies to link human rights and the environment and explored initiatives to build local capacity, increase power of Indigenous Peoples with regard to corporations and international financial institutions, and raise Indigenous voices in international policy debates.
- “Indigenous Education and Language Revitalization:” Discussions included successes and challenges in preserving the world’s endangered languages and models of Indigenous education.
- “Indigenous Peoples and Water:” moderated by Shaun Paul, Executive Director of Ecologic Development Fund,

and with panelists from Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico, offered insight into advocacy efforts to redirect national policy and international funding around this issue.

- “Indigenous Peoples and Tsunami Aid – Relief or Second Catastrophe:” moderated by Nikhil Aziz, Executive Director, Grassroots International, the panel dealt with how much emergency funding efforts consider Indigenous peoples’ visions and organizational infrastructure in their giving strategies.
- “Indigenous Stewardship, Biodiversity and Conservation:” moderated by Simon Counsell, Executive Director of The Rainforest Foundation, discussed how conservation organizations show little regard for Indigenous People’s ancestral land tenure or environmental stewardship.
- “Power and Partnerships in International Grantmaking:” moderated by Katie Sternfels, Program Coordinator of Grantmakers Without Borders, facilitated discussions in the need for funders to develop real partnerships with their grantees and that RELATIONSHIPS are a significant factor in becoming an effective grant maker.

Commenting on the conference, Former Ambassador of Ecuador Raul Gangotena stated, “Although the strongest Indigenous movements rely mostly on their own resources, IFIP provides opportunities for networking and the tools to make Indigenous assets yield benefits for Indigenous People and their communities. This is certainly the sustainable way to defeat poverty and deter discrimination.”

Support for this conference included: The Open Society Institute, Levi Strauss Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, The Christensen Fund, Aveda Corporation, Garfield Foundation, and Reebok Human Rights Foundation.

To request a complimentary conference report, email [ifip@internationalfund.org](mailto:ifip@internationalfund.org)



# Strategies and Techniques to Increase Funding

International Funders for Indigenous Peoples' held an informational session on "Learning Strategies and Techniques to Increase Funding for Indigenous Communities" at the Fourth Annual United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples in New York City and discussed challenges Indigenous Peoples face in securing funding for development initiatives.

Rebecca Adamson, President of First Nations Development Institute, spoke during the session on the importance of establishing long lasting relationships with funders. Adamson recommended several strategies to increase an organization's chances of obtaining long term funding. Some recommendations include submitting required reports in a timely manner, accomplishing all funding objectives, and having a global vision with an understanding of how issues are often interrelated.

Other panelists included Christine Halvorson of the Rainforest Foundation and Joënia Batista de Carvalho, of the Indigenous Council of Roraima (CIR), a Rainforest grantee and Brazil's first female Indigenous lawyer. Batista de Carvalho and Halvorson spoke about the importance of partnership between a funder and an Indigenous organization and how the CIR and has been a successful leader in the demarcation movement because it has a strong grassroots base and a network of support. Halvorson commented, "Their (CIR) standing and leadership in the Brazil Indigenous community has made them a successful organization."

At the session, IFIP distributed 400 complimentary books of the new *Indigenous Peoples Funding and Resource Guide* in both Spanish and English. The second edition of the guides provides practical information to assist grantseekers in their efforts through three

components; elements of writing a proposal, how to research foundations and a listing of over 200 foundations that support Indigenous projects and grassroots projects internationally.

*Adamson recommended several strategies to increase an organization's chances of obtaining long term funding. Some recommendations include submitting required reports in a timely manner, accomplishing all funding objectives, and having a global vision with an understanding of how issues are often interrelated.*

IFIP surveyed Indigenous representatives through a questionnaire on specific funding challenges and received suggestions that can assist in improving their access to potential funds. There was an overall belief that international funders are reluctant to support Indigenous development projects. Other issues include the difficulties of applying for a grant due to language barrier, not having the technical assistance in completing forms and the cost involved in opening a bank account. Several

participants agreed that there was an overall lack of knowledge on how to prepare and submit grant proposals, an identification of funding sources, and how administrative functions and reporting requirements often redirects critically needed resources from the project itself.

To improve access to funding opportunities, Indigenous participants recommended direct funding be made available without any competition, improved communication from funding agencies, fewer restrictions and guidelines, development of a funders database and guide specifically for Indigenous Peoples, a standard grant proposal and access to other successfully funded projects.

The questionnaire also revealed a number of funding priorities for the vast majority of representatives from an Indigenous community, some of them included the protection of intellectual property, environment, language, art, and culture; efforts to alleviate poverty and malnutrition; addressing health, women and children's issues; and improving education, human rights, access to technology and medical services in remote regions throughout the world.



Christine Halvorson of Rainforest Foundation, (left), Joënia Batista de Carvalho of CIR and Sonny Davis, Board of Potlatch Fund.



# Networks and Collaborations

## Council on Foundation Annual Conference San Diego, April 8-12, 2005

"IFIP's Inaugural Award Reception: Ford President, Susan Berresford, received the very first IFIP Award for her leadership in increasing a greater commitment from a philanthropic institution for international Indigenous development projects and communities.

## Challenges & Opportunities to Funding Indigenous Peoples

**Santiago Kawarim**, Achuar Indigenous leader, Amazon basin in south-eastern Ecuador spoke about how the Achuar, are developing sustainable economic enterprises.

**Enrique Salmon, PhD.**, Program Officer, *The Greater Southwest and Northwest Mexico*, of The Christensen Fund discussed a new funding strategy that adapts indigenous systems for managing landscapes that sustain cultural and biological value and diversity.

## Linking Circles IV New York City, May 19-20, 2005

The conference was made possible with financial

support from The Open Society Institute, Levi Strauss Foundation, W.K.Kellogg Foundation, The Christensen Fund, Aveda Corporation, Garfield Foundation, Reebok Human Rights Foundation. Report email: [ifip@internationalfund.org](mailto:ifip@internationalfund.org)

## United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues New York City, May 18, 2005

"IFIP Shares Strategies and Techniques to Increase Funding": International Funders for Indigenous Peoples' held an informational session on "*Learning Strategies and Techniques to Increase Funding for Indigenous Communities*" at the Fourth Annual United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples in New York City and discussed challenges Indigenous Peoples face in securing funding for development initiatives.

## The New Indigenous Peoples Funding and Resource Guide

Ken Wilson, Executive Director of Christensen Fund quotes:

*"By enabling Indigenous organizations worldwide to identify potential sources of grant funds this Guide*

*beautifully addresses an important reason why foundations and Indigenous People have so rarely been able to partner directly, despite the needs and opportunities."*

The *Indigenous Peoples Funding and Resource Guide*, which was developed in collaboration with IFIP and First Peoples Worldwide, has been distributed to hundreds of Native communities and nonprofit organizations in English and Spanish. The *Funding and Resource Guide* helps build the capacity for Indigenous communities to increase their participation as successful grant-seekers.

It contains practical information that includes the elements of a proposal; how to conduct foundation research; useful research websites; glossary of fundraising terms; and information on more than 250 foundations, corporations, and government agencies who provide funding for Indigenous and grassroots projects.

To purchase copies, download order form from IFIP's website at [www.internationalfund.org](http://www.internationalfund.org)

## FNDI's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

First Nations Development Institute proudly announces its 25th Anniversary

Celebration Dinner and Awards Program to benefit Native communities. The celebration, "25 Years of Indian Giving" will take place on Saturday, October 22, 2005 at the National Museum of the American Indian on the National Mall in Washington D.C. at 7.p.m. The evening promises to be entertaining and exciting with Ulali, a female trio a cappella singing group performing songs from their newest CD. Guests will have the opportunity to tour the museum. For more information or to sponsor this event, please call 540-371-5615 X19 or visit the website at [www.firstnations.org](http://www.firstnations.org)

## Paradigm Wars: Indigenous Peoples' Resistance to Economic Globalization

Co-edited by International Forum on Globalization Founder & IFIP Esteem member Jerry Mander and Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, this report details positive trends of Indigenous People on the rise. It looks at the new role played by Natives in a safer energy future; new initiatives for impacting WTO rules; and major progress within the U.N. To order a copy, visit website at: [www.ifg.orgstore.htm](http://www.ifg.orgstore.htm)

## Upcoming IFIP Fall Events

### September 24-28, 2005

#### EGA Annual Retreat

New Paltz, New York

IFIP has organized an AD-Hoc session on Sept. 28, 8am-9am called, " *The Challenges and Opportunities to Funding Indigenous Peoples Internationally.*"

See <http://www.ega.org/index.php> for more information.

### October 8-11, 2005

#### *The Power of Generations Pursuing Justice Through Sacred Relationships,*

#### NNG Annual Conference

Blaine, Washington (North of Seattle)

see <http://www.nng.org> for registration information.

### October 9, 2005 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.

#### Indigenous Peoples and Funders Working Group Reception, NNG Annual Conference

A funders reception and an opportunity to learn about, as well as to purchase, traditional native art. *Co-Sponsored by: The Solidago Foundation, The Christensen Fund, ArtCorps Program of New England Biolabs Foundation, Potlatch Fund, Tierra Madre Fund, Native Americans in Philanthropy, and IFIP.*

### October 9, 2005 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

#### Indigenous Art Experience, NNG Annual Conference

This workshop will offer a window into how Indigenous artists from Australia and Bolivia create their work with a hands-on approach. *Organizers include: The Christensen Fund, ArtCorps Program of New England Biolabs Foundation, and IFIP.*

### October 11, 2005 10:30 a.m. - Noon

#### Indigenous Peoples Confront Globalization NNG Annual Conference

This workshop will present a U.S. and a global-South presenter that are organizing events across borders in response to globalization. *Organizers include: The Solidago Foundation, Center for Economic Center, and IFIP.*

### October 16-19, 2005

#### 2005 Grantmakers in Arts Annual Conference:

Pasadena, California

On October 18th at 10:30 am. IFIP has organized a session called "Cultural Expression: Using the Arts as a means of Effective Grantmaking" panel discussion. This panel will explore the central role culture can have in effective environmental grantmaking through the experiences of two Indigenous artists from Australia and Bolivia. *For registration information see: <http://www.giarts.org>.*

### November 28 - December 1, 2005

#### World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education

New Zealand

IFIP is attending this gathering of indigenous educators, researchers and students. It will be an opportunity for honouring all previous hui (gatherings.) It also creates an occasion for bringing interesting and innovative ideas that evoke inspiration and pride as Indigenous Peoples. *For registration info: <http://www.wipce2005.com>.*

# IFIP Membership

International Funders for Indigenous Peoples is a philanthropic affinity group of the Council on Foundations whose members are dedicated to expanding and enriching their grantmaking programs for international Indigenous development.

Join our network of supporters today and start to receive the many benefits of being an IFIP member. Be apart of strengthening our Indigenous Philanthropy network. Benefits include: being part of an unparalleled vehicle that exchanges ideas and guidance with funders and experts, receiving *The Sharing Circle*, our bi-annual newsletter that offers insight into the international arena, having access to highly provocative research reports and books, invitation to become a planning committee member for our Annual conference, being added to our monthly e- newsletter *The Sharing Network* and so much more.

To join IFIP's network and become a member, complete the form at [www.internationalfunders.org](http://www.internationalfunders.org) or request a form at [ifip@internationalfunders.org](mailto:ifip@internationalfunders.org), or call Tel: +1 (540) 371-5615 ext. 14 Fax: 371-3505

## Levels of Support

### Sustaining Members:

Levi Strauss Foundation, The Christensen Fund, and W.K. Kellogg Foundation

### Esteemed Members:

Aveda Corporation, The Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, Seeds for Communities, New England Biolabs Foundation, Otto Bremer Foundation, Global Greengrants Fund, Tides Canada Foundation, The Garfield Foundation, Mary's Pence, American Jewish Funders Network, National Network of Grantmakers, Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development at WB, Native Americans in Philanthropy, Center for Economic Justice, Winds of Peace, The Primates World Relief & Development Fund, Solidago Foundation, The Myer Foundation, Foundation for Deep Ecology, The Grotto Foundation, Abelard Foundation, The Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation, Joshua Mailman, and Fund for Indigenous Rights and the Environment.

Combining the global links of international grantmaking with the professional development of affinity groups



IFIP Director  
c/o First Nations Development Institute  
2300 Fall Hill Avenue, Suite 412  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Tel: +1 (540) 371-5615 ext.14  
Fax: +1 (540) 371-3505

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