



**3rd INDIGENOUS LEADERS SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS
PANAMA CITY, PANAMA
APRIL 14th to 15th, 2009**

INFORMATION BULLETIN #1

Purpose

The purpose of the 3rd Indigenous Leaders Summit of the Americas (3rd ILSA) is to provide an international forum for discussion of Indigenous Leaders on a range of policy topics related to the work of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the themes to be addressed during the V Summit of the Americas (V Summit). Indigenous leaders from the Americas will participate in this event, including women, youth and Elder leaders from across the regions of South, Central and North America and the Caribbean. The V Summit will take place from April 17th to 19th in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

This may include the development of a Declaration and Plan of Action at the 3rd ILSA that identifies the responsibilities of states/ministers, Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders and others. One initiative may be the development of a Permanent Forum of Indigenous Peoples as an advisory body to the OAS. Implementation of Indigenous Peoples' human rights through this Plan of Action will be a strong focus.

Background

The 3rd ILSA will provide an opportunity to continue the policy dialogue initiated in the first two Indigenous Peoples Summits of the Americas. The First Indigenous Peoples Summit of the Americas was held in Ottawa, Ontario, in March 2001. The Indigenous Summit, which focused on the theme of "Connecting to the New Economy," was hosted by the Assembly of First Nations, with the financial support of the government of Canada. The Indigenous Summit resulted in a Declaration, which formed the Indigenous input into the OAS Third Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, April 2001.

The AFN and ONPIA hosted the Second Indigenous Peoples Summit of the Americas focused on the theme of "Determining our Future: Guided by our Traditional Teachings and Mother Earth." The Summit was held in October 2005 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and it was preceded by an Indigenous Women's Summit and Indigenous Youth Symposium. The Summit was a great success, with over 1000 Indigenous Peoples participating, and successful side events related to business, best practices, culture and language. The Main Summit resulted in a Declaration that endorsed Declarations from the Women's Summit as well as the Youth and Language Symposiums. The declarations

were based on the three main themes of the Indigenous Summit: 1) Governance and Self-Determination, 2) Lands, Resources and Territories and 3) Sustainable Economic Development.

The 3rd ILSA will move this dialogue forward to focus on implementation of the measures necessary for the previous Declarations and Plans of Actions to be fully realized. Thus, the Indigenous Leaders Declaration will be a synthesis of the first two Declarations, updated to reflect new standards, including the UN *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. There will be a focus on implementation and on providing “shadow” information from an Indigenous Peoples’ perspective on the agenda items for the V Summit of the Americas.

The V Summit of the Americas

The theme of the V Summit is “Securing Our Citizens’ Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability.” In the Draft Declaration of Commitment this is further divided into the following themes: Promoting Human Prosperity; Promoting Energy Security; Promoting Environmental Sustainability; Strengthening Public Security; Strengthening Democratic Governance and Strengthening the Summit of the Americas, Follow-Up and Implementation Effectiveness. For more information, please visit their website at: www.summit-americas.org.

Partner Organizations

The Assembly of First Nations and the Native Women’s Association of Canada are co-hosts to the planning of the 3rd ILSA and will take the lead with respect to the technical and administrative planning of the Indigenous Leaders Summit, working in partnership with Indigenous leaders in North, Central and South America, as well as the Caribbean. These leaders include:

Co-Hosts: Grand Chief Edward John, Tl’azt’en, Assembly of First Nations (Canada) and President Beverley Jacobs, Mohawk, Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC)
Albert Deterville, Bethchilokon, St. Lucia
Roberto Borrero, Taino/Boriken, Puerto Rico
Damon Corrie, Guyanese Arawak, Barbados
Carlos Chex, Mayan, Guatemala
Hector Huertas, Kuna, Panama
Azalene Kaingáng, Kaingáng, Brazil
Jaime Arias, Kankuamo, Colombia
Regional Chief Wilton Littlechild, Cree, Assembly of First Nations (Canada)
Ellen Gabriel, Mohawk, Mohawk - President, Quebec Native Women Inc./Femmes Autochtones du Quebec
Violet Ford, Inuit, Inuit Circumpolar Council and/or ITK
June Lorenzo, Laguna, United States of America
Youth Representative: Ben Powless, Mohawk, Ottawa, Canada
Elder Representative: Irene Lindsay, Ottawa, Canada

Registration

If you are interested in participating in the 3rd ILSA, please note that registration is limited and subject to availability. The deadline is April 6th, 2009.

For more information about the 3rd ILSA, please contact:

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The 3rd ILSA appreciates the financial support provided by the Canadian International Development Agency and the administrative support provided by the Organization of American States.