



# Center for World Indigenous Studies

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44th Annual Report  
October 2023

# Organizational Contributions

This report has been prepared to cover the main activities and outcomes for the Center for World Indigenous Studies (CWIS, Center) during the period of October 2022 – September 2023. The Center functions as a global community of activist scholars advancing the rights of Indigenous Peoples through the application of traditional knowledge.

## Our mission

Activist scholars advancing the rights of indigenous peoples worldwide.

### Personnel contributing to the work of the Center include:

- » Rudolph C. Rýser, PhD, Executive Director, Researcher, FWJ Editor in Chief
- » Leslie E. Korn, PhD, Director Center for Traditional Medicine, Research/Education
- » Aline Castañeda Cadena, MA, Executive Assistant, FWJ Managing Editor
- » Nadine Brown, Producer
- » Irene Delfanti, Communications Advisor
- » Sam Stocker, Projects Manager and Producer, Screen Writer
- » Alma Mendez Trujillo, Cinematographer
- » Max Valladares Mantalban, Cinematographer and Sound Mixer, Grip
- » Juan Salvador Gradilla, IT programmer
- » Michel Medellin Valdez, Graphic Artist
- » Aimee Little, Accounting



## Board of Directors

Dr. Rudolph C. Rýser – Cree/Oneida/ Swiss (USA), Chair; Secretary Amy Dejarlais – Anishinabe (Canada); Treasurer Amelia Marchand – Okanogan, Moses-Columbia, Palus, Chief Joseph Band of Wallowa Nez Perce and Sinixt (USA), Director Dr. Ku Kahukalau – Hawaiian (USA), Director Dr. Leslie E. Korn – Ashkenazi (USA), Director Henry Cagey – Lummi Nation (USA), Director Martha Schmidt, LLM, Director Joaquin Marchand – Sinixt, Blackfeet and Iroquois, Director Gillian Joseph – Ihanjktionwan Dakota (USA).

## Associate Scholars & Consultants

CWIS has benefited from substantive and advisory contributions from Associate Scholars and consultants during the fiscal year including the following stellar scholars:

- » Dr. Mohammad Al Hashimi, Senior Lecturer at EUCLID (Euclid University - USA - Pôle Universitaire Euclide – Community and Economic Development specializing in Islamic Micro-financial Intermediation.
- » Dr. Hiroshi Fukuari, Professor of Legal Studies, and Sociology at University of California – Santa Cruz - USA and President of the Asian Law and Society Association (ALSA). He is specialized in lay adjudication, Indigenous approaches to international law, and Asian law and politics.
- » Dr. Maureen Eke, is an Igbo and scholarly leader from Biafra (southwestern Nigeria) and professor of English and Literature at Central Michigan University.
- » Andrew Reid, LLM, a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Oklahoma School of Law is a Senior Counsel with the Walter L. Gerash Law Firm in Denver, Colorado specializing in civil rights law, constitutional law, and American Indian Law.

- » Irene Delfanti, MA, is a native of Spagnolo, Italy and studied with distinction in the field of “design for change” at the University of Edinburgh. She has practical and academical experience in the topics of Indigenous Peoples’ rights, environmental issues, and design education. Her work focuses on the development and application of design methodologies that facilitate systematic changes employing thought diagrams and relational reasoning.
  
- » Francesco Edoardo Chessa, LL.M., is an Italian attorney in Cabras, Italy currently pursuing his Doctorate in Law and Political Science at Pablo de Olavide University, Seville, Spain. He is a CWIS Legal Advisor and a member of the Yurok Tribal Court Bar and the Puyallup Tribal Court Bar and has been a visiting researcher at the Irish Centre for Human Rights.
  
- » Faraz Saberi, is a member of the Ardalān tribe in northern western Iran and a Ph.D. candidate in American Indian Studies at the University of Arizona.
  
- » Mohamed Aboelazm, LL.M., is a member of a West Asian tribe, and an attorney specializing in constitutional law and human rights and justice policies. He is a graduate of Cairo University, Egypt.
  
- » Dr. Gary Morishima, a mathematician and environmental scientist, technical advisor to the President of the Quinault Indian Nation and co-founder of the Intertribal Timber Council in Portland Oregon USA. Dr. Morishima was born in a Japanese internment camp at Tulelake, California.
  
- » Miguel Angel Estrada, an Information Technology specialist assisting in the management of digital technology in Mexico.
  
- » Dr. Leo Mukosi, S.J., former intern and scholar at the Center for World Indigenous Studies from Zimbabwe who was appointed on May 23rd this year as an Expert Member for Southern Africa in the African Union’s African Commission

on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), Working Group on Indigenous Populations at the 75th Session of the Commission held in Banjul, The Gambia.

- » Dr. Sabina Singh, Operations Coordinator for Pacific Peoples Partnership in Victoria, Canada formerly teaching political science at the University of Victoria specializing in international relations.
  
- » Dr. Melisa Farley, a CWIS Associate Scholar who is a researcher and clinical psychologist. She is perhaps the most influential researcher in the field of female trafficking and prostitution. She heads the San Francisco-based organization, Prostitution Research and Education.
  
- » Dr. Yvonne Scherwood, Professor of Sociology, University of Toronto, Canada. She is Sp'q'n'ił - Schitsu'umsh (Spokane-Coeur d'Alene), was born and raised on the Yakama Nation Reservation, and studies the politics of knowledge, race, and law with a focus on the interplay of settler colonialism, white supremacy, and heteropatriarchy.
  
- » Dr. Deborah S. Rogers, President of Initiative for Equality a non-governmental organization registered with consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council earning her doctorate at Stanford University in cultural evolution and serving as an affiliate researcher at the Institute for Research in Social Sciences, Stanford University.
  
- » Aditya Vishwanath, Director Producer, at Ra Digital in New Delhi, India. With over 15 years of experience in the realm of video content creation, he established a track record of delivering captivating visuals across diverse formats such as documentaries, television shows, corporate films, music videos, and films. Throughout his career, he has worked in dynamic locations including Delhi, Mumbai, Singapore, Los Angeles, and Madrid.

# Contents

<b>OVERVIEW .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>REMOTE PRESENTATIONS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
Medicinal Plants and Therapeutic Massage Project in Western Mexico.....	10
Fourth World Geopolitics - Genocide.....	11
<b>RESEARCH.....</b>	<b>13</b>
Educational video program.....	13
<b>PUBLIC POLICY.....</b>	<b>16</b>
ALDMEM.....	16
International Mechanism for Criminal Court on Genocide-Indigenous Peoples.....	16
<b>OPERATIONS.....</b>	<b>22</b>
Fundraising.....	22
WEB/Library Upgrades.....	22
Free Prior and Informed Consent Web Presentation .....	22
<b>CWIS FINANCIAL REPORTS.....</b>	<b>23</b>

# Center for World Indigenous Studies

## 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Report

October 2023

### Overview

With this annual report, the Center for World Indigenous Studies (CWIS, Center) ends its 44th year of continuously advancing Indigenous Peoples' knowledge through education, research, and public policy. We look to celebrate our 45th Anniversary in March 2024 marking the date when the Conference of Tribal Governments met in 1979 in Tumwater, Washington, USA and authorized the establishment of a "document exchange center;" and designated Rudolph Ryser as the responsible person for organizing and implementing the mandate to gather and share among Indigenous Nations collected knowledge and social, economic, political, and cultural information.

The original idea for the Center was that documents would be gathered from Tribal governments and then shared upon request to Tribal governments wanting to receive information. The materials were varied. Documents shared included conference

proceedings and studies by Tribal staff on economic development and plants for food and medicine, to meeting notes, resolutions, letters, and digital records. All those "beer box" (materials received in boxes) documents became the foundation for the CWIS George Manuel Memorial Library (GML), which is now part of the World Wide Web library system. It is fitting then that as we near this anniversary our efforts focus on advancing the CWIS legacy as the premiere resource for Indigenous documentation and media globally.

The Center has become, in the past four decades, a global organization not only providing the library, a repowered online website linked to social media, Associate Scholars in many countries, and an education program with online courses, research in a wide range of subject areas that include economic, health, nutrition, ecological and historical investigations; and public policy documentation and analysis including governance, intellectual and

cultural property rights, and climate change—subjects of direct benefit to Indigenous Nations on every continent.

## Summary

In the 2023 fiscal year of September 2022 – October 2023, the Center produced two award-winning video productions and new educational online courses in the traditional healing arts and sciences and fourth world geopolitics; and published two Peer Reviewed Fourth World Journal issues. We also undertook significant research working with Fourth World nations and several states' governments to develop the Nations International Criminal Tribunal (NICT) Charter. The Charter is leading to negotiations with those states and nations to establish the tribunal by May 2024. The Tribunal is expected to hear its first cases in May 2026. Working with the President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the Center has developed ALDMEM (Ancestral Lands Decolonization, Monitoring and Enforcement Mechanism), an international mechanism to facilitate monitoring, negotiations, agreements,

and enforcement based on standards and procedures established in a ratified charter to implement the international principle of obtaining the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of Fourth World nations on policies and initiatives that affect their interests. This year, CWIS staff produced a new section of the website devoted to FPIC.

The Center's team of video and document production staff, twelve Associate Scholars, volunteer interns, and the nine-member Board of Directors continue to generate new and innovative ideas to advance a broader understanding of the many traditional knowledge systems and how appropriate application of any one or combination of knowledge systems can produce social, economic, political, and cultural benefits for Fourth World nations.

We are proud of our achievements this year and provide here a list of some of our accomplishments in education, research, and public policy springing from our emphasis on the traditional healing arts and sciences and Fourth World Geopolitics.



## Education and Publications

The Education Program offers online courses, internships, and publications in traditional medicine and Fourth World geopolitics.

Center for Traditional Medicine (CTM) Director Leslie Korn provided two, one-hour presentations in August 2023 on traditional nutrition and on traditional massage, at the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Conference on the Opioid Epidemic. The CTM also donated 14 health books as gifts from the Nutrients for Natives Program.

- » CWIS Chairman Rudolph Rýser delivered lectures and presentations: University of California – Davis –
  - 1) How do we get Middle Eastern and North Africa (MENA) states to acknowledge Indigenous Nations?
  - 2) What international mechanisms are there to address Indigenous rights and priorities?
  - 3) What policy strategies have Indigenous People used domestically to hold states accountable?
- » T’it’q’et Land Code Committee- Establishing coherent application of the T’it’q’etCanada Land Code



Agreement to the St’át’imc Constitution – Seven two-hour session training over three months delivered to Tit’q’et (of British Columbia, Canada) Land Code Committee members.

- » California State University – Long beach, California presentation on “Decolonization in the 21st Century”, in pursuit of political equality.

Under the direction of Dr. Korn and Sam Stoker, the Center hosted a total of five Interns:

- » 1 graduate school Intern produced translations of over 30 documents into Chinese languages about Indigenous Peoples and added to the GML.

- » 2 graduate school Interns conducted archival research on the Constitution express and the Pathfinder documentary series.
- » 1 graduate school Intern is conducting abstracting and key word analysis and uploading 100 documents to the GML beginning Sept 2023 for a 3-month period.
- » Leo Mukosi, law intern with CWIS was appointed to the African Commission.
- » 1 graduate Intern conducted archival research in the Bernard Nietschman files at UC Berkeley for work on the Nicaraguan war segment. CWIS assisted the Intern on obtaining travel funds from the University of Michigan for this travel.

Work continued into 2023 to produce and promote bilingual courses in English and Spanish. The portal Teachable® is the host providing sophisticated opportunities for quizzes, handouts, interaction, coupons, and newsletters. Our most popular is the bilingual Native Roots course. Additional courses currently offered

include:

- » Oolichan Oil: The Elixir of the Sea
- » Preventing and Treating Diabetes Naturally [English] and Prevenir y Tratar la Diabetes, Naturalmente [Spanish]
- » Essentials of Mental Health Nutrition
- » Native Women’s Activism
- » Native Roots
- » Environmental Justice in Indian Country
- » Nutrition for Mood and Cognitive Repair
- » Introduction to Herbal Medicine
- » Strength through Knowledge
- » From Islamic State Genocide Against the Yezidi

#### **Fourth World Journal**

Two issues of the Fourth World Journal (FWJ) were published under DayKeeper Press and distributed on the CWIS Webpage as well as through

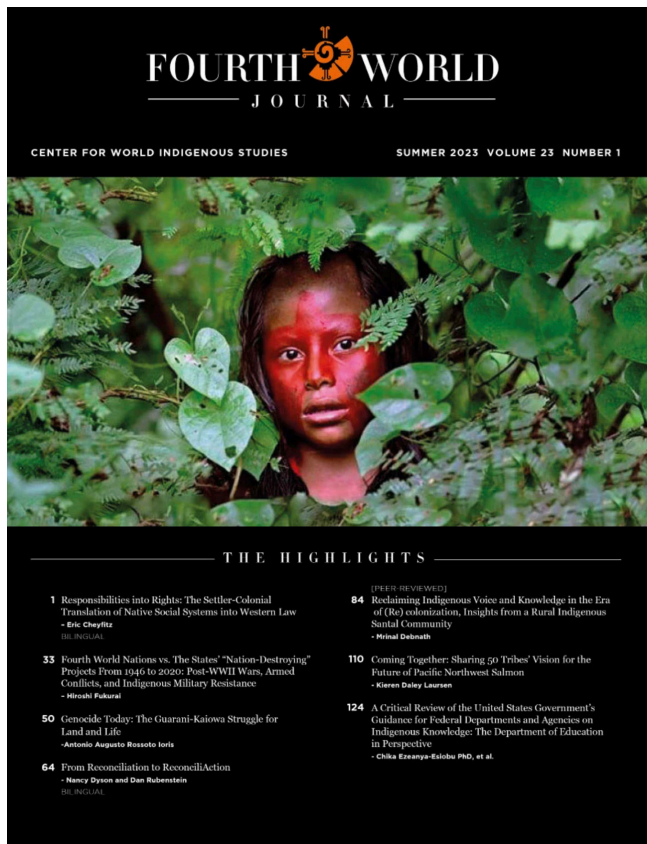
three licensed distributors reaching more than 300 universities and colleges world-wide and hundreds of Indigenous Nations.

Articles Published in FWJ Volume 22, Number 2 Winter 2023 (Insert cover image)

- » Cultural Death: Destruction of a People in Whole or in Part, Rudolph C. Rýser.

- » A Voice at the Table: Strengthening Collaboration and the Governance of Environmental Agreements, Beatrice Hamilton, Jason Baldes, Gary Morishima, Elze Shakalela, Jeji Varghese, and Roger Zetter.

- » Coca Cola and Cola Leaves: A Case Study on the use of FPIC, Irene Delfanti.



- » Recognition of Indigenous Citizenship and Nationhood: Challenges for Education in Aotearoa, Veronica Tawhai.
- » Five Horsemen of the Apocalypse in Indian Country: Strategizing to Strengthen Nations' Sovereignty, FWJ Editors.
- » Fourth World Nations and the Process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, CWIS Editors.

Articles Published in FWJ Volume 23, Number 1 Summer 2023 insert cover image

- » Responsibilities into Rights: The Settler-Colonial Translation of Native Social Systems into Western Law, Eric Cheyfitz.
- » Fourth World Nations vs. The States' "Nation-Destroying" Projects From 1946 to 2020: Post-WWII Wars, Armed Conflict, and Indigenous Military Resistance. Hiroshi Fukurai.
- » Genocide Today: The Guarnani-Kaiowa Struggle for Land and Life. Antonio Augusto Rossoto Loris.
- » From Reconciliation to ReconciliAction, Nancy Dyson and Dan Rubenstein.
- » Reclaiming Indigenous Voice and Knowledge in the Era of (Re) colonization, Insights from the Rural Indigenous Santal Community.
- » Coming Together: Sharing 50 Tribes' Vision for the Future of Pacific Northwest Salmon. Kieren Daley Laursen.
- » A Critical Review of the United States Government's Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Indigenous Knowledge: The Department of Education in Perspective. Chika Ezeanya Esiobu, Opal Almerica, Sakura Arai, Franny DePhillips, Michael Dickson, Ge Xiyang, Goodhue Angelina, Sarah Johnson, Kawai Iliromi, and Zama Kunene.

## Research

CWIS Research focuses on the arenas of Traditional Healing Arts and Sciences and Fourth World Geopolitics to advance public policy in support of the rights and cultures of Indigenous Peoples around the world. Topical areas include:

- » Cultural and mass population violence
- » Ecocide
- » Indigenous Food Systems and Food Security
- » Traditional Medicine Policy
- » Intellectual and Cultural Property Rights
- » Governance

## Documentaries

The Center for Traditional Medicine (CTM) conducts studies of medicinal/ pharmacological use of wildlife products, particularly in relations to small communities and presentations supported in part by a gift from the Elina Vesara Ostern Fund administered by the California Community Fund in Los Angeles, California.

In 2023, CWIS and CTM created and produced three films submitted to compete in film festivals. The films, “Searching for Capomo”, “Cradling the Heart”, and “Salal, Cedar, and Spruce: A Journey with Salish Plant and Medicine Traditions”, were submitted for consideration to various film festivals.

To date, all three films have been accepted into the Latino and Native American Film Festival, with two of them, “Searching for Capomo” and “Salal, Cedar, and Spruce” honored with the Best Integrative Health awards.

These documentaries have been submitted and or aired on FNX TV by agreement with CWIS and Sinchi, out of Europe who has created a social media and documentary campaign for all three films to start Oct. 2023.





» **“Salal, Cedar and Spruce: Salish Plant Foods and Medicines”** documentary. CTM has completed a second 30 minute video of medicinal plant use among the Salish peoples of the Pacific Northwest (<https://www.cwis.org/salish-foods-medicines/>). Our video team completed 12 interviews at the Squaxin Island Tribe, the Muckleshoot Tribe and GRUB about its work supporting tribal youth learning about plant medicines and foods.

» **“Searching for Capomo”**, a 30-minute video documentary Field Research Oral history with 12 Indigenous elder interviews and youth about the tree, seed, leaves and bark of, *Brosimum alicastrum* known as The Breadnut or Capomo and its traditional use for nutrition and medicine. Six field trips into Mexico Indigenous communities were conducted to explore the effects of climate change and logging on the tree, its habitat and traditional medicine uses. The documentary is available online at <https://www.cwis.org/searching-for-capomo/> and was distributed by FNX TV Public Television to Indigenous communities through 26 regional stations.



Image of Gary Morishima

» **Pathfinder:** Dr. Korn directed and produced with the CWIS video team of Max Mantalbán, Alma Méndez, Juan Gradilla, Michel Medellín, Sam Stocker, and Angel Estrada a 30 minute video documentary with author Dina Gilio Whitaker and Pitzer College Professor of Sociology Erich Steinmen discussions of Indigenous Nations asserting self-determination, edited and posted online as part of **“Pathfinder, the Untold Story of the Indian Business”** at: <https://www.cwis.org/pathfinder-the-untold-story-of-the-indian-business-documentary-film/>

» Additionally, 16 short video clips have been posted on the CWIS website where interviewees tell personal and political stories related to the last 50 years of the Indian self-determination movement. These “outtakes” are focused on the theme of Identity and work and how one’s identity and experience “fuel” one’s mission. The team is working on a 6- hour series to be aired on FNX and broadcast widely. Over 40 hours of interviews have been conducted, collection of archival images and

video permissions research is underway. This series will air on FNX by agreement and become part of the CWIS open access website/legacy project.

- » FNX - First Nations Experience
- » CWIS has continued posting social media on 3 platforms to announce CWIS and CTM activities.
- » CWIS video team collaborated with Director and Creative CEO Aditya Vishwanath of Ra Digital/Ra Creative Productions in New Delhi, India producing the documentary **“Destiny of Tripura”** with a running Time: 22 Minutes. It is directed by Aditya Vishwanath, written by Kuber Kaushik, produced by Alethea Kynta and the Production Company is Ra Digital/Ra Creative telling the story of the Indigenous Peoples of Tripura in interviews, CWIS commentary and video examples of conflicts with India. The documentary explores events that have affected the Tribes beginning with the dawn of Indian Independence, discussing partition to the dissolution of East Pakistan,



the decade of violence that pitted Tribals against Non-Tribals, and the continuing struggle to hold onto language, customs, and dignity in the face of a changing world. It brings viewers to the present day, where political reform and the dawn of a new Internet revolution shine a ray of hope for the future, sharing the legend and destiny of Tripura.

### Public Policy

The Center's research and policy analysts and Associate Scholars have developed, advanced, and promoted public policies to improve the effectiveness of Indigenous Nations' governance and institutional responses to the changing social, economic, political, and cultural environment.

CWIS applies Indigenous Knowledge systems to public policies across the range of human experience. Major initiatives have focused on developing strategies for establishing a functional and globally recognized mechanism to address acts of genocide and defending Indigenous Nations against unrestrained extraction of raw materials from their ancestral territories.

### Nations International Criminal Tribunal (NICT)

» CWIS conducted an extensive inquiry at the request of the Yezidi government of Ezidikhan into international mechanisms to prosecute acts of genocide and crimes against humanity committed against Indigenous Nations from 1945 onward. Of particular focus in the study were the Uyghurs of Uyghuristan (Turkistan in western China, Rohingya in southwestern Burma and the Yezidi in northern Iraq.) The study was reported in a CWIS article at <https://www.cwis.org/2018/01/156-fourth-world-nations-suffered-genocide-since-1945-the-indigenous-uyghurs-case/> noting that from 1945 to 2017 an estimated 12.482 million Indigenous People were killed in 156 different incidents. The conclusion of this study was that the Genocide Convention of 1948 and the Rome Statute of 2002 establishing the International Criminal Court had failed to recognize the crimes of genocide committed against Indigenous Peoples. Special tribunals

such as the Rwanda Tribunal established by the United Nations in 1994 were established, but they were rare. The study revealed that Fourth World nations are obligated to take the initiative to establish an international tribunal to prosecute crimes committed by individuals, militias, mobs, governments, and businesses to destroy Fourth World nations in whole or in part. To that end, the Center for World Indigenous Studies at the request of Uyghurs and Yezidi conducted research and concluded that a new International Mechanism on Genocide must be established. The terms of reference that render an Indigenous Peoples' specific tribunal necessary is the addition of cultural genocide as a crime.

- » The results of the study were shared with the governments of India, Germany, and Sweden. It is anticipated that the resulting Program of Action will be shared with Fourth World nations, with the expectation that interested and available Fourth World nations will participate in an intergovernmental planning panel to establish the Tribunal.

Organized, convened, and conducted 18 sessions of the NICT Charter Panel. The Charter Panel was chaired by human rights law expert Mohamed Aboelazm from Egypt and the co-chair was Ezidikhan Justice Minister Nallein Sowilo. CWIS Chairman and Indigenous international relations scholar Dr. Rudolph Ryser served as the Charter Panel Rapporteur. Other members included human rights Indigenous affairs lawyers Francesco Cessa in Italy and international Indigenous rights lawyer Andrew Reid in the United States. Igbo human rights scholar Dr. Mareen Eke from the Indigenous Republic of Biafra, Southwest Asia scholar Patrick Harrigan, human rights legal scholar Dr. Hiroshi Fukurai originally from Japan, communications researcher Irene Delfanti from Italy and resident in Scotland, and CWIS Executive Assistant Aline Casteñada in Mexico. The result of this work is the 111 article Charter providing for the composition and administration of the Tribunal (court, prosecution, and registry—for security, administration, and operations management) and a legal code including principles of criminal

law (taking into account state-based international law and nation-based international law), general principles of criminal law, legal code, investigation and prosecution, trial, penalties and appeal. Uniquely the tribunal charter includes provisions for victim community juries and a mechanism providing for restorative justice in cases where it is possible that victims and perpetrators may negotiate acceptable outcomes.

- » At the conclusion of the Charter drafting phase, the Center established a Side Bar Working Group of experts to advise the government of Ezidikhan on implementation of the NICT, negotiations with Armenia, Iraq, Lebanon, and Georgia as supporting states, negotiations with nations to obtain their ratification of the Charter and communications with international organizations. Work on the planning, organizing and implementation of the Nations International Criminal Tribunal are ongoing with a planned coming into force date in mid-2026.

## **Extractive Industries Initiative (EII) Panel**

- » A panel of Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars was convened to explore strategies for planning, organizing, and implementing approaches to monitoring, mediating, and negotiating consent with Indigenous Nations to prevent adverse effects on Indigenous Nations' ancestral territories. Associate Scholars Dr. Muhammad Al-Hashimi, Dr. Hiroshi Fukuari, Dr. Sabina Singh, Amelia Marchand, Dr. Melissa Farley (Prostitution Research & Education), Dr. Deborah Rogers (Initiative for Equality), Chuck Tanner (Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights [IREHR]), Devin Burghart (IREHR) conducted extensive inquiries and analysis of the extent and consequences of Extractive Industries to Indigenous Peoples and their territories. The Panel pointed its conclusions to the need to establish an FPIC implementation mechanism internationally which was subsequently developed as ALDMEM.



## Collaboration with National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)

» Upon conclusion of the EII Panel, CWIS collaborated with the President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) to develop a mechanism formalizing Indigenous Nations' consent to access their lands and resources affecting wildlife and traditional foods and medicines. **ALDMEM** (Ancestral Lands Decolonization, Monitoring, negotiating and Enforcement Mechanism) is the acronym for this mechanism that is in the process of being formed officially with the agreement of nations, states, corporations, and non-governmental organizations. Indigenous Nations and state governments in the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples formally agreed that states and other organized bodies must obtain the consent of nations according to a process referred to as "free, prior and informed consent," (FPIC). Specifically, the process must be carried out when states

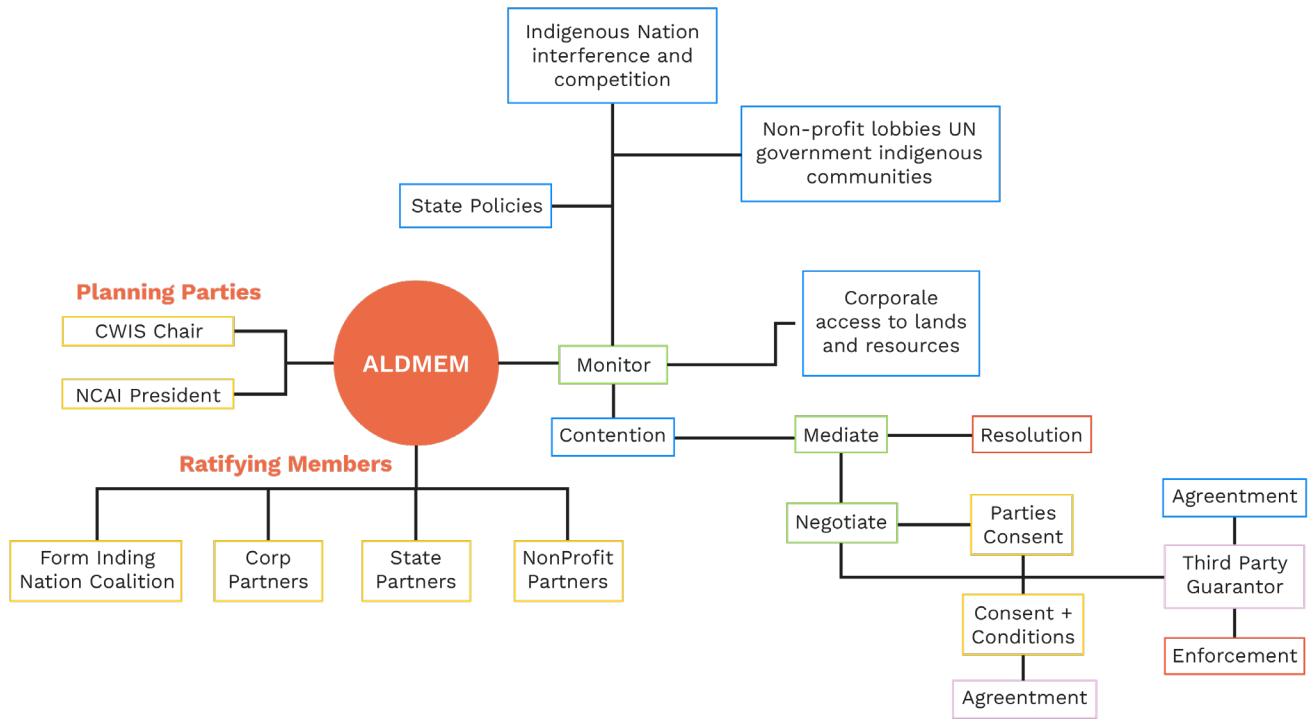
or any of their corporations, non-governmental organizations, or multi-lateral organizations wish to take actions that affect Indigenous Nations' interests: wellbeing, culture, economy, environment, society, or exercise of self-determination. States' governments acted in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly 2014 Outcome Statement, stating that UN member states commit to implementing FPIC. In their commitments, UN member states voted to (para 3) "*cooperate in good faith with indigenous peoples ... through their ... representative institutions*" and to secure "*approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources ... through their free, prior, and informed consent.*"

### **ALDMEM**

*Ancestral Lands Decolonization, Monitoring, and Enforcement Mechanism*

### **FPIC – Free, Prior and Informed Consent**

Convening the EII Panel explored strategies for planning, organizing,



and implementing approaches to monitoring, mediating, and negotiating consent with Indigenous Nations to prevent adverse effects on Indigenous Nations’ ancestral territories. CWIS was then asked to collaborate with the President of NCAI to develop a mechanism formalizing Indigenous Nations’ consent to access their lands and resources affecting wildlife and traditional foods and medicines. Between the EII Panel and an extended dialogue with NCAI

President Fawn Sharp the following initial plan for an international mechanism was developed.

**Purpose**

Through a cooperative agreement between Indigenous Nations, non-governmental organizations, corporations, and states establish a mechanism funded by independent sources to facilitate monitoring, negotiations, agreements, and enforcement based on standards and procedures set forth in a ratified charter establishing ALDMEM.

**Mission**

To facilitate negotiation of agreements (compacts, treaties, etc.) between nations and parties seeking to establish policies, take actions affecting land and communities and which seek access to ancestral territories for the purpose of using or extracting resources for outside benefit.

**ALDMEM Goals**

- » Register nation, state, corporate and purchaser parties seeking to socially, economically, environmentally, culturally and to use or extract resources from ancestral territories.
- » Monitor existing territorial occupations and respond to nation requests for mediation between the nation and other parties.
- » Facilitate Third Party Guarantor participation of negotiations as an active party with a mutually determined role as monitor and enforcer of the final agreements.
- » Notify prospective parties of the mediation and negotiation framework for establishing amicable relations between parties and offer venues for engagement.



- » Facilitate communications about customary governance of nations, structure of corporate, state and purchaser systems.
- » Facilitate communications, translation, and customary languages to maximize understanding of engagement between parties.
- » Conduct Public Affairs communications in symposiums, public media releases, public conferences, and documentary releases.

### **Commentary**

Since the UN, ILO and other international bodies are “State’s controlled” bodies, they cannot and will not serve as unbiased mechanisms to facilitate negotiated consent under provisions of the internationally required process of FPIC. ALDMEM is designed to be the independent and unbiased body to fill the gap for implementing FPIC since there is no mechanism established for that purpose.

## **Operations**

### **Fundraising**

Planning began for the CWIS/CTM Legacy project in January 2023 and fundraising efforts toward this goal also commenced. Dr. Korn identified a major CWIS donor and former board member who is interested in supporting a portion of this project. In June, a substantial gift from the Elina Vesara Ostern fund for medicinal plants research and support was received. Two marketing and funding experts joined the team as volunteers. Grant writing commenced summer of 2023 for the NICT project, focusing on Open Society, Ford and MacArthur Foundations. Board donations were made by 4 board members during 2023.

### **Legacy Project**

Information Technology personnel and web designers enhanced the CWIS Chief George Manuel Memorial Library (GML) search capability allowing user access to over 1,800 stored documents and growing. In addition, the web design and IT team designed new pages the

CWIS website (cwis.org) to reflect the dynamic initiatives being conducted by the organization. The Fourth World Journal (FWJ) presentation was enhanced and the CWIS Blog became more accessible. New pages were added including the story of CWIS and selected accomplishments, a page describing our outcomes <https://www.cwis.org/what-we-do/> and <https://www.cwis.org/our-story/2017-2011/> and a comprehensive page of resources for diabetes in Indian Country: <https://www.cwis.org/diabetes/keynotes-and-workshops/> and a page for people seeking consultation services including previous clients <https://www.cwis.org/consult-with-us>. Free Prior and Informed Consent Web Presentation was added to the website. Digitization

of CWIS historical documents has begun focusing on the Nicaraguan war.

### **CWIS Financial Reports**

#### **Financial Condition ending Sept 2023**

The Center for World Indigenous Studies benefited from significant individual donations and a major grant from the California Foundation. Those funds permitted the Center and the organizations working under fiscal sponsorships to carry out their missions more effectively. The Center had current assets of 358,367.02 at the end of the FY23 fiscal year. The balance sheet as of September 30, 2023, and the Profit/Loss Report for October 2022–September 2023 are included here.



## Center for World Indigenous Studies Balance Sheet

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
Checking	29,725.01
Checking (Fisc spon**)	261.05
Checking (Spec proj**)	2,571.91
Savings	314,585.79
Bank	11,223.26
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$358,367.02</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$358,367.02</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$358,367.02</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Credit Cards	<b>\$436.41</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$436.41</b>
<b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>	
SBA Note Payable	\$34,540.00
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$34,540.00</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$34,976.41</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
31500 Temp. Restricted Net Assets	-1,870.92
32000 Unrestricted Net Assets	183,491.60
Net Income	141,769.93
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$323,390.61</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$358,367.02</b>

## Profit and Loss

September 2023

	TOTAL
<b>Income</b>	
<b>Contributed Income - CWIS</b>	
Donations	572.61
<b>Total Contributed Income - CWIS</b>	<b>572.61</b>
<b>Education</b>	
Intern/Fellowship Fees	35.00
<b>Total Education</b>	<b>35.00</b>
<b>Fourth World Papers Program</b>	
CWIS Bookstore	
Book Royalty	7.00
<b>Total CWIS Bookstore</b>	<b>7.00</b>
Fourth World Journal Sub	105.00
<b>Total Fourth World Papers Program</b>	112.00
Release from Restriction - UR.	10,375.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$11,094.61</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$11,094.61</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Consultants</b>	
CWIS Consultants	4,998.88
308 Video Documentaries	
308-0909 PathFinder	1,173.74
<b>Total 308 Video Documentaries</b>	<b>1,173.74</b>
Accounting	1,650.00
<b>Total CWIS Consultants</b>	<b>7,822.62</b>
<b>Total Consultants</b>	<b>7,822.62</b>
<b>Program &amp; Other Expenses</b>	
Bank Fees - CWIS	5.65
Communications	984.24
Computers/Hardware/Software	291.68
Dues and Subscriptions	48.85
<b>Total Program &amp; Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,330.42</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,153.04</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,941.57</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	
Interest Income	130.61
Release from Restriction - TR.	-\$10,375.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>-\$10,244.39</b>
<b>NET OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>-\$10,244.39</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-\$8,302.82</b>

### Volunteers and Intern valuation

Volunteers and interns contribute enormously to the work of the Center for World Indigenous Studies for a total of 3,875 person hours valued at \$393,620 over the period of one year.