



**WORLD
COUNCIL
OF
INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES**

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Executive Council

INSTITUTE FOR WORLD INDIGENOUS RESEARCH

(IWIR)

Background:

Founded and chartered in 1975 at Port Alberny, Canada, the World Council of Indigenous Peoples became the first global organization in modern history devoted to the promotion of unity among indigenous peoples on a world-wide scale. This event came about at a time when the nation-states of the world had concluded that a new world order had been finalized after more than thirty years of positive efforts toward decolonization. The formation of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples by representatives of Indigenous Nations whose territories and peoples have been colonized over the last 2000 years became a signal to the modern nation-states that the decolonization process would not be ended until Indigenous Nations had themselves achieved self-determination.

The founding General Assembly of the WCIP proclaimed the new organization's purpose to be:

"Unity of Indigenous Peoples through knowledge and organization; to combat racism, to abolish genocide and ethnocide; to insure political, economic and social justice; and to establish equality among indigenous peoples of the world."

In extension of this purpose the WCIP Second General Assembly (Kiruna, Samiland, Sweden - 1977) directed and authorized the establishment of a WCIP Educational Trust Fund to support the development of indigenous research and education. The WCIP Educational Trust Fund was officially sanctioned as an organ of the WCIP in Urubamba, Peru (March, 1980) by the authority of the WCIP Executive Council. In 1981 the Institute for World Indigenous Research (IWIR) was established under the WCIP Educational Trust Fund.

IWIR Purpose and Function:

The purpose of the Institute for World Indigenous Research is to undertake or commission research and educational projects which advance the knowledge of Indigenous peoples and humankind in general in the fields of indigenous philosophy, economics, history, social development, political development, customary and international law,

culture and the relations between Indigenous Nations and other peoples of the world.

The goal of the IWIR is to support Indigenous peoples in their efforts to achieve self-determination and a renewed place as contributors to the knowledge of humankind.

The principle objectives of the IWIR include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Conduct a world-wide study of problems of racism and discrimination against indigenous peoples before 1988.
2. Promote and facilitate the establishment of indigenous developed and controlled education institutions such as universities in locations to be determined by regional WCIP organizations.
3. Publish and disseminate WCIP official documents, reports and other materials to WCIP regional members, and other international and domestic organizations.
4. Organize and conduct four special issue conferences of concern to Indigenous peoples in the areas of Economic Self-determination, International Law, Indigenous Customary Law, and Indigenous Rights; Indigenous Technology and the political status of Indigenous peoples by 1986.
5. Promote and facilitate cultural exchange programs.
6. Conduct research and prepare analysis for the WCIP Secretariat as required by the WCIP General Assembly or the WCIP Executive Council.

The purpose, goal and objectives of the IWIR are achieved through the performance of the following functions:

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| 1. Research | 4. Information dissemination |
| 2. Education | 5. Cultural Exchange |
| 3. Training | |

The Institute for World Indigenous Research is staffed with a Director, Administrative Secretary, resident researchers, translators and interns. The Institute is affiliated with the Nordic Sami Institute in Kautokeino, Norway; International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs in Copenhagen, Denmark; Native American Studies Department, University of Lethbridge in Lethbridge, Canada. It works in cooperation with the Central American Regional Council (CORPI) in San Jose, Costa Rica; the South American Indigenous Council in Lima, Peru; South

Pacific Indigenous Council in Canberra, Australia; the Nordic Sami Council in Norway and the North American Indigenous Council in Washington, D.C., U.S. Field staff for the IWIR are drawn from Indigenous organizations within the five established WCIP regions.

The Board of Directors who oversee the IWIR during the term 1981 - 1984 are:

President Jose Carlos Morales, Baruca Tribe, Costa Rica

Vice President Milillian Painemal, Mapuche, Chili

Vice President Aslak Nils Sara, Sami, Norway

Member Reginal Birch, Bunaba Miriwung, Australia

Member Ralph Eluska, Aleute, United States

Honorary Member George Manuel, Shuswap, Canada
