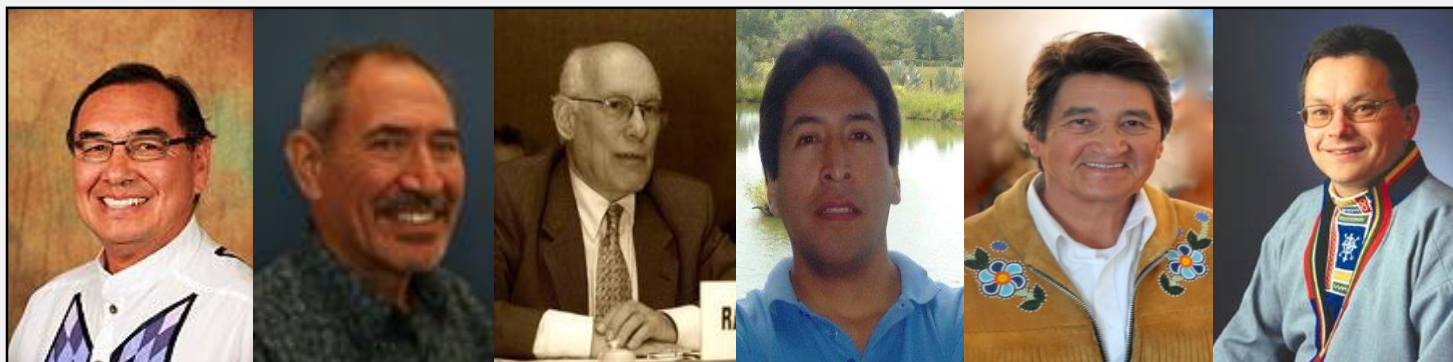


## Report on the Rise of the Fourth World Conference and the Resource Governance Forum



The *Rise of the Fourth World Conference* June 11-13 (2014) held at the Balsillie School of International Affairs was a remarkable and productive international meeting of topic experts. Indigenous leaders and scholars respectfully shared with one another on the topic of the internationalization of Indigenous rights, from regional perspectives, with considerable attention to the origins of this movement from the Haudenosaunee of the Six Nations of the Grand and the early and significant role of Deskaheh, Levi General.

The conference featured Indigenous perspectives and voices and was significant in naming the human rights infringements of Indigenous peoples worldwide. Although global governance institutions have emerged as a major tool in efforts to sustain, rebuild, and reinvigorate Indigenous cultures, little coordinated academic attention has been given to the emergence and importance of global Indigenous governance. The Internationalization of Indigenous Rights and Governance Research Project (IIRGP) launched in 2011 by Dr. Terry Mitchell (Associate Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University) and Dr. Kenneth Coates (Professor and Research Chair in Regional Innovation, University of Saskatchewan) funded by the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) in 2012, has been building an international partnership to do just that.

The CIGI pilot research program culminated in June 2014 with a public forum: “*Resource Governance: Indigenous Rights in a Global Economy*”. Distinguished international guests participated as panel speakers including: Former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Rights, Rodolfo Stavenhagen (Mexico); former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Ovide Mercredi (Canada); Commissioner Wilton Littlechild (Canada), Sami Leader, Sven Roald Nystø (Norway); Maori leader, Roger Maaka (New Zealand); and Andean Organizer and Economist, Luis Vittor (Peru). Over 100 people attended the forum which also had an online audience that was able to participate in real-time through a live stream video. To date over 950 people have viewed the taping of the Forum.

A linked three-day conference “*Rise of the Fourth World: The Internationalization of Indigenous Rights*” was organized by Dr. Mitchell and Wilfrid Laurier University’s Indigenous Health and Social Justice Research Group, in conjunction with the CIGI public forum, to provide an opportunity for the distinguished Forum guests, scholars, community members, and students to engage in intercultural dialogue about the uptake and impact of global governance mechanisms, such as UNDRIP, in promoting Indigenous rights globally.

Over 40 individuals, from across Canada and abroad, participated in the three-day conference. Following a traditional Haudenosaunee welcome, the conference agenda included keynote sessions by Ovide Mercredi and Rodolfo Stavenhagen; plenary sessions by Sven Roald Nystø, Roger Maaka, Rebecca Adamson, Luis Vittor, and José Aylwin; and panel presentations by Roberta Rice, Gonzalo Bustamante, Andrew Thompson, Jonathan Crossen, George Kennedy, and Ketan Shankardass. Participants were also provided with time to network and dialogue.

The final day of the conference served as a policy dialogue meeting, providing senior Indigenous participants an opportunity to discuss active measures for implementing global governance mechanisms, such as UNDRIP. Time was also reserved during the final day of the conference to discuss conference outputs and the direction of future international research collaboration. A number of key themes emerged based on the sessions, presentations, and dialogue that took place during the conference. Firstly, participants acknowledged that the conference provided a unique opportunity for mobilizing and sharing

knowledge about the internationalization of Indigenous rights, as participants from various geographical, cultural, and disciplinary perspectives were able to engage and dialogue with one another. Secondly, participants found that the conference generated new and important linkages between Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars across four continents, establishing a strong foundation for future partnerships and international research collaborations. Finally, participants agreed that the knowledge generated about the internationalization of Indigenous rights during the conference could serve as a vital resource for Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders, policymakers, governments, and the business community. More specifically, participants suggested that further research events and activities of the partnership should focus on the internationalization of Indigenous rights in relation to resource extraction, as this is a significant topic to Indigenous and non-Indigenous policymakers, governments and the business sector.



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Immediate outcomes of the conference include: conference proceedings, video recordings of key notes and plenary sessions, a full conference report, and a planned special issue in a policy-focused journal, and a podcast interview with Dr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen. Additionally, Indigenous leaders who participated in the conference have begun planning a subsequent meeting to be held in Norway to strengthen the existing partnership and solidify future research and policy plans. Financial and logistical support is also being sought to support research activities of the partnership and the IIRGP moving forward.

The organizers of the public forum and conference would like to thank the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) for funding this event, as well as for providing organizational and technological support throughout the proceedings. The organizers would also like to acknowledge Balsillie School of International Affairs for providing a wonderful meeting space, the Working Centre Multicultural Cinema Club for filming the event, and Wilfrid Laurier's Research Office for ongoing support. Finally, the organizers wish to thank the international guests,

keynote speakers, the Kitchener-Waterloo Women's Drumming Circle, Skye catering, and conference participants for all of their exceptional contributions and engagement in the *Rise of the Fourth World Conference* and the public forum *Resource Governance: Indigenous Rights in a Global Economy*.

For additional information about the *Internationalization of Indigenous Rights in Governance Project (IIRGP)*, please visit: [www.cigionline.org/activity/internationalization-of-indigenous-rights-and-governance-project](http://www.cigionline.org/activity/internationalization-of-indigenous-rights-and-governance-project).

For more information about the research activities of Wilfrid Laurier University's *Indigenous Health and Social Justice Research Group*, please visit: [www.wlu.ca/page.php?grp\\_id=2615&p=13432](http://www.wlu.ca/page.php?grp_id=2615&p=13432).

For access to *conference outputs*, including the full conference report, speaker biographies, conference minutes, video clips, podcasts, public forum footage, and conference proceedings, please visit: [www.riseofthefourthworld.wordpress.com](http://www.riseofthefourthworld.wordpress.com).

