

United Nations  
**DECLARATION**  
on the **RIGHTS**  
of **INDIGENOUS**  
**PEOPLES**

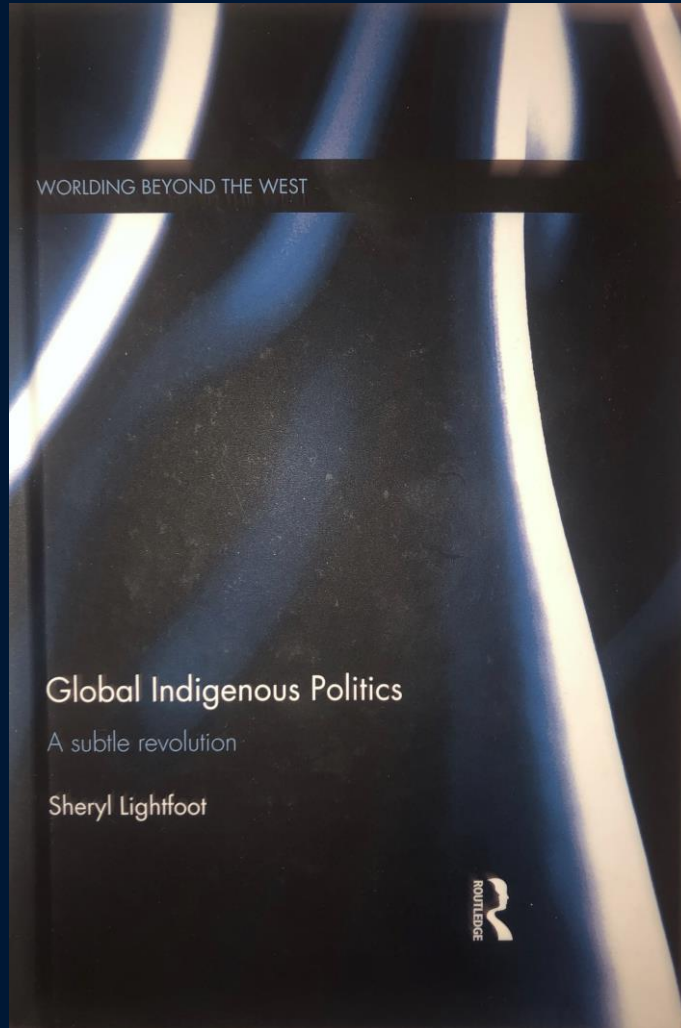


*Article 17*

- 1. Indigenous individuals and peoples have the right to enjoy fully all rights established under applicable international and domestic labour law.*
- 2. States shall in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples take specific measures to protect indigenous children from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, taking into account their special vulnerability and the importance of education for their empowerment.*
- 3. Indigenous individuals have the right not to be subjected to any discriminatory conditions of labour and, inter alia, employment or salary.*



# “THE SUBTLE REVOLUTION”



Indigenous rights as  
transformational

# UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

**Article 3:** *self-determination*

**Article 11:** *respect for Indigenous laws, traditions, customs*

**Article 31:** *maintain, control, protect and develop cultural heritage, intellectual property*

**Article 18:** *participate in decision-making*

**Article 37:** *treaties, agreements and other constructive agreements*

**Article 14:** *establish and control own educational systems and institutions*



# BRITISH COLUMBIA'S DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ACT (DRIPA), 2019

Establishes a process to work with Indigenous peoples to develop an Implementation plan

Sets priorities and timetables

Review of laws, policies and regulations

Identifies needed changes

Establishes clear commitment for collaborative, coordinated and comprehensive work



# FEDERAL LEGISLATION

INTRODUCING

**BILL C-262**

## Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

Wachiya:

Thirty years ago, I was invited to go to the United Nations to negotiate the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Coming full-circle, it is with great pleasure that I am introducing my Bill C-262: An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Prime Minister has stated in his mandate letters that no relationship is more important to him than that with Indigenous peoples. My bill is a unique opportunity for Canada to move towards a true nation-to-nation relationship. I hope that all MPs will support this bill.

I hear talk of reconciliation and a new nation-to-nation relationship in this country in the the words spoken by the government. With my Bill, I am proposing non-partisan co-operative, concrete action to back up those words. As the Truth and Reconciliation Commission said: the UN Declaration is the framework for reconciliation.

I truly believe that this bill is important for future generations on this land, which is why I am asking for your support.

Romeo Saganash



Private Members Bill  
Tabled by  
MP Romeo  
Saganash (NDP,  
James Bay) in 2016



# UBC INDIGENOUS STRATEGIC PLAN

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2020



# Indigenous Worldviews, Climate Change, and the Way Forward for Northern Trappers

Dr. Priscilla Settee

Professor of Indigenous Studies,  
University of Saskatchewan

November 12, 2020



**DAVID SUZUKI  
FOUNDATION**  
One nature.



# Introduction: Northern Saskatchewan and family background



# Setting the stage for the story



# Key findings

- Climate change is evident in First Nations communities in Canada.
- Many Canadians are unaware of the circumstances of First Nations and Metis people including the impact of western development on Indigenous economies. They see the impact of underdevelopment and develop an erroneous and sometimes racist analysis of the problems faced by Indigenous peoples.
- There is a need to expand the understanding of average Canadians on the impact of climate change; to view our collective situation, but also as ones that impact land-based people to a greater extent.

# Climate change, economic inequality and racism-synonymous(The Nature of Things, Nov 2020)

- There is a critical need to develop alternative and green energy systems to mitigate climate change.
- Social economies are growing in First Nations communities as a viable development strategy that should be structurally and financial supported.
- Indigenous knowledge is essential to a biodiverse world
- Indigenous peoples who stand up to development as defined by the state risk the possibility of criminalization.
- Solidaritous organizations are an important and effective social change tool.

# Methodology

- This report is based on semi-structured interviews with Indigenous trappers and individuals from organizations that are creating sustainable change through research and development in the energy sector. The report draws on academic research from Indigenous Studies, social economy studies and environmental studies. While the report can be used to inform and strengthen an Indigenous approach in the Suzuki foundation work it can also be used to inspire the important work to support solidaritous relations and strategies between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

# Storying the research

- Many of my interviews involved the famous Carriere clan, renowned for their knowledge of the land and taking home top prizes for trapper's events including animal calls, bannock baking, flour packing and other endurance events. As a guest of the Carriere family my interviews were more than just staged and taped recordings but were contextualized and peppered with fabulous family stories, meals and interruptions by grandchildren, a beloved highlight of all Indigenous families.



# Creation and importance of alliances

- Protect our Forest Network
- Indigenous Climate Change Network
- Solidaritous sister organizations, CC, SCC
- Northern Saskatchewan Trapper's Association







# Select Invited keynote presentations on DSF research

- Queen's University, Univ of Toronto, Univ of Wpg. Wewini Lecture Indigenous speakers series  
University of the Philippines Baguio, Cordillera Studies Center (CSC) 3rd International  
Conference on Cordillera Studies, University of Regina, McMaster Univ., Faculty of Medicine
- Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Wewini Conference
- Muskeg lake FN, File Hill Qu'appelle First Nations matriarch conf
- UNIFOR
- National Farmers Union

# Alternatives for the Future

- What are social Economies
- Aki Enterprises
- Role of universities

# Aki Energy

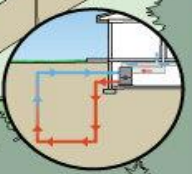


# AKI Energy - Growing Green Economies

Aki works with First Nations to lower energy costs and create employment opportunities through geothermal energy. Aki Energy is a non-profit, social enterprise – governed and operated by First Nations.



**Creating Social Enterprises**  
*Problem: government usually puts out tender and awards contracts to outside companies.*  
Aki Energy works with First Nations to start geothermal social enterprises, community-minded businesses that focus on economic development. Social enterprises can take advantage of opportunities on their First Nation, in other First Nations and in surrounding non-First Nation communities.



**Enabling First Nations Money to Remain in the Community**  
*Problem: paying for energy imported from elsewhere takes money out of the community.*  
Your geothermal unit uses energy from your backyard reducing the expensive import of electricity. Instead of leaking out of the community, money saved in heating costs can be used to create local jobs and economic opportunity.



**Lowering Energy Costs**  
*Problem: importing energy for electric heating and cooling is expensive.*  
Geothermal, a renewable energy source, creates on average a 50% reduction in heating and cooling costs and \$1,000 saved annually for each house.



**Creating Employment Opportunities**  
*Problem: unemployment in First Nations communities.*  
Aki Energy trains First Nations workers to install, maintain and troubleshoot geothermal units creating employment opportunities. The vast majority of issues with geothermal units can be fixed quickly and affordably by local workers.



**Improving Access to High Quality Geothermal**  
*Problem: outside companies often use low quality equipment to maximize profits.*  
Aki Energy uses high quality equipment which was procured with Manitoba Hydro and has very high efficiency rates and good warranties. Trained local workers can maintain and troubleshoot geothermal systems rather than having to call in outside workers. Most problems are addressable locally via a call to your Housing Department.

## Aki Energy's Work



Aki Energy's First Nation partners have already **successfully installed over \$15 million of geothermal energy**



For every 100 homes retrofitted there is **\$1 million in labour, mostly First Nation**



For every 100 homes retrofitted there is **\$100,000 annual reduction in energy bills**



# Thank you- Questions

