



Speech for Tuesday, July 11th, 2017 on “Good practices and challenges in business and in access to financial services by Indigenous Peoples”. 10th session of EMRIP, Geneva, Switzerland.

By Rosa Walker, President and CEO of ILDI, Inc. Canada.

Since the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and specifically on economic rights, many efforts and initiatives have been started, with different enthusiasm and results.

As an Indigenous organization of Canada, incorporated in year 2000, we started working under the principles of “Indigenous Leadership for Tomorrow, Today”, having an Indigenous organization, board, staff and curriculum.

But we noticed that something was missing. So, in 2010 we partnered with the World Business Forum in New York City, and launched the first ever World Indigenous Business Forum. We can say, humble but proudly, we succeed. We have been in USA, Australia, Namibia, Guatemala, and the last WIBF 2016 in Canada one thousand people from eleven countries, this year in October, Santiago de Chile and 2018 in New Zealand. We are an Indigenous international business event at the same level of any other international event. It is made by Indigenous organization, staff and partners, but open to Indigenous and non-Indigenous entrepreneurs, companies and partners.

We are here thanks to our friends from Australia that participated in the Forum, who see the value of our work and convinced us to bring this to your attention.

During WIBF 2014 we started the World Indigenous Business Network, representing seven countries.

We expect it to be as successful as WIBF, but we would like to have your support. We invite you to acknowledge our journey and to join us in building together the sustainable prosperity for the next generations.