

SPECIAL GUESTS AT UBCIC CC - JUNE 30, 2021

Francisco Calí Tzay, Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous Peoples

Mr. Calí Tzay is Maya Kaqchikel from Guatemala, with experience in defending the rights of Indigenous Peoples, both in Guatemala and at the level of the United Nations and the OAS. He was founder and member of a different indigenous organizations in Guatemala and as well Ambassador of Guatemala to the Federal Republic of Germany and was President of the Committee for the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, a treaty body from which he was elected for four consecutive periods of 4 years each. He was Director of Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala; he was member of the Presidential Commission against Discrimination and Racism against Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala (CODISRA) and President of the National Reparation Program for Victims of the Internal Armed Conflict.

Hon. Murray Sinclair

Calvin Murray Sinclair is a former member of the Canadian Senate and First Nations lawyer who served as chairman of the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission from 2009 to 2015. He previously served as a judge in Manitoba from 1988 to 2009, being the first Aboriginal judge appointed in the province. Sinclair was appointed to the Senate of Canada on April 2, 2016.

Andrea Carmen

Yaqui Nation, became a staff member of the International Indian Treaty Council in 1983 and its Executive Director in 1992. Andrea was IITC's team leader for work on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for 20 years and has served as a human rights observer in crisis situations impacting Indigenous Peoples around the world. She was one of two Indigenous representatives to formally address the UN General Assembly for the first time in history at the UN Earth Summit +5 and in 2006 she was selected as Rapporteur for the UN Expert Seminar on Indigenous Peoples' Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources and their Relationship to Land, the first Indigenous woman to serve as a Rapporteur for an UN Expert Seminar. Andrea has been an expert presenter at UN bodies and seminars addressing a wide range of human rights and environmental justice issues and carries out trainings and capacity building programs for Indigenous human rights defenders, advocates and new generations of leaders. In 2019 Andrea was selected to represent North America Indigenous Peoples on the new Facilitative Working Group for UNFCCC's Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform in its first three years of operation, and served as its co-chair in 2020-2021.

Maura Gowan

Dene from Tulita in the Northwest Territories. She works on the unceded and traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh peoples. She is committed to empowering others. Her goal is to meet you where you are at. She will work together to reduce your pain and increase your resiliency, making use of both her own lived experience and the learnings gained through earning her Masters in Social Work.