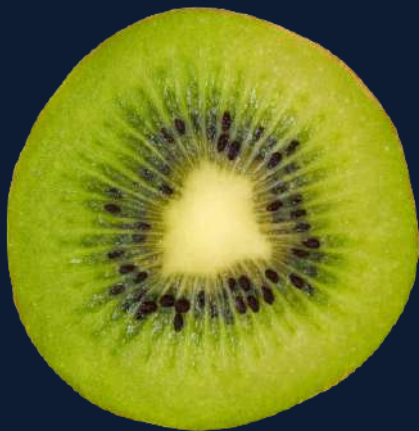


VIRTUAL EXCHANGE

INDIGI-X

FOR INDIGENOUS PROFESSIONALS



**DELEGATE BIOS
FEBRUARY 2021**

AOTEAROA, KANATA AND VITI

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WELCOME

OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER CONTINUES

We would like to warmly welcome you to the second cohort of INDIGI-X - a program that was created last year to facilitate connections between Indigenous Professionals around the world.

We received an overwhelming number of applications to join this cohort and invested a considerable amount of time selecting the delegates for this cohort.

Our alumni can attest to the power of connecting both professionally and personally across borders. Long-lasting friendships have developed, alongside opportunities to do business together during our program. Many have gone on to use their experiences in the program to speak at conferences, earn consulting contracts, and board positions. You will get out what you put into the program.

Together we will show our community, our ancestors and our Nations that amazing things happen when Indigenous Professionals connect and work together.

We both warmly welcome you into our network and wish you the greatest of success in the program!

**CHRIS KARAMEA
INSLEY**

Co-Founder, INDIGI-X
CEO, Te Taumata

**RAYLENE
WHITFORD**

Co-Founder, INDIGI-X
Director, Canative Energy





MINISTER'S WELCOME

Hello, Bonjour, Kwe Kwe, Boozhoo, Ullukkut, Asujutilli, Tanisi, Aaniin, Wotziye, Tanshi,

I am honoured to welcome the delegates joining us from across Canada and Aotearoa. I also want to acknowledge that we are all coming together from the traditional lands of Indigenous Peoples on both sides of the Pacific.

Last year's inaugural INDIGI-X Virtual Exchange brought together Māori, First Nations, Inuit and Métis leaders and professionals to identify innovative new ideas and opportunities for engagement and partnership. This year, while in the midst of a global pandemic, I am confident that participants will continue to foster meaningful new connections through inclusive dialogue and knowledge-sharing. Strengthening connections between Indigenous Peoples in Canada and New Zealand will support our collective efforts in the post Covid-19 recovery as we look to build back better – economically, socially and environmentally.

Canada looks forward to working with all partners to continue to expand this exchange over the coming years.

Thank You. Merci. Meegwetch. Nakurmik. Kinanâskomitin. Migwetch. Masi Chok. Marsee.

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett

Minister of Crown – Indigenous Relations

Government of Canada

MINISTER'S WELCOME



E ngā mana e rarau mai, tēna koutou katoa.

I am excited to welcome you to the second INDIGI-X Virtual Exchange- a program created to facilitate connections between Indigenous Professionals around the world.

This is an Indigenous 'first' and in these challenging times, we can harness the knowledge and insights that can create partnerships and alliances for the wellbeing of ourselves, our Nations, and our world.

In this virtual collaboration, you and your Indigenous peers from around the world will forge connections and work together to find new opportunities for cross-border development.

My tupuna said; "whiria te tangata" which means "weave the people together ", which is exactly what this exchange does.

You will meet others just like yourself who face similar issues and challenges, but who also share the same hopes and aspirations for their whanau (relations). Take your time and get to know each other well. Share stories of not only your work, but your families and interests. This is where the meaningful connection happens.

Welcome to our new virtual circle of Indigenous Professionals from all around the world.

Pai Mārire.

The Honorable Nanaia Mahuta

New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister of Local Government

Associate Minister of Māori Development

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To **foster meaningful connections** between Indigenous professionals across countries
- To facilitate the **development of Indigenous economies** by strengthening the formal and informal networks between countries
- To demonstrate the **power of global Indigenous collaboration**
- To build the business case for a **face-to-face exchange program** for Indigenous Professionals in the future

INDIGI-X was created to facilitate the connection of Indigenous Professionals internationally, encourage collaboration and facilitate economic growth.





AOTEAROA

KIA ORA

A warm welcome to the
delegates who join us from
the Land of the Long White
Cloud





TAYLA AFOA

Ko Ngatokimatawharua te waka. Ko Panguru, ko orowhana nga maunga. Ko Ngati Manawa, ko whakamaharatanga nga marae. Ko Te Rarawa te iwi. Ko Te Waiariki, ko Ngati Hine nga hapu. Ko Tayla Afoa tōku ingoa. He roia ahau ki Kāhui Legal

Tayla was raised in the Far North Region of Aotearoa and graduated from Waikato University with a LLB and BA (double major in Political Science and Philosophy). During her undergraduate studies she was offered a scholarship to attend the University of Calgary in Canada. Whilst there, she focused her studies on the recognition of customary rights of First Nation communities in contemporary times and in comparison with Māori communities.

She is now a solicitor at Kāhui Legal, Rotorua and is involved with various work streams related to Māori issues including Māori land law, Treaty of Waitangi, trust law and criminal defense law. She is also on the Executive Committee 2021 of Te Hunga Roia Māori o Aotearoa (The New Zealand Māori Law Society).

Tayla passionate about advancing Māori interests and repairing past injustice that simmer within the fabrics of Aotearoa.

www.linkedin.com/in/tayla-foa-557973182/



JOSEPH ALAIMOANA

Talofa Lava O lo'u ingoa O Joseph Alaimoana O lou ingoa Sili O VaoVasa Toa.

As a NZ-born Samoan from Wellington, Joseph Alaimoana earned a Bachelor in Business Studies from Massey University. After traveling to the United Kingdom play professional rugby, Joseph had the opportunity to play in Canada. After a 10 year career working in the security industry, he began working with local First Nations in Alberta on Employment, Training and Business Opportunities.

In the last 5 years Joseph has worked closely with First Nation Communities in Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan on Employ to Train Programs, Business Development Capacities and Strategy Building, and setting up Band Member Business Incubators and Mentorship. He has also successfully set up First Nation joint venture partnerships and assisted in negotiating First Nation equity ownership in major oil and gas projects. He currently works in Oil, Gas, Mining (coal, gold and uranium), and Forestry sectors.

Joseph enjoys learning about different industries and supporting the success Indigenous Nations across Canada are having as part of the commitment to Economic Reconciliation.

www.linkedin.com/in/joe-alaimoana-36a7a660/



NICKI DOUGLAS

Ngāti Rangiwewehi, Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Tangata, Ngāti Porou

Nicki focuses her time and effort on advocating for the environment and on what matters most to Iwi and hapū, supporting where needed. She has worked in the environment sector for 19 years and has participated in leadership, development, and implementation of environmental initiatives.

Nicki is currently the Environment Manager at the Te Arawa Lakes Trust. Her role focuses on the health and wellbeing of our 14 Lakes and their associated waterways, and in supporting the connection to our hapū and Iwi. She also convenes Te Urunga o Kea - Te Arawa Climate Change Working Group and led the development of a strategy for Te Arawa in response to climate change. In a voluntary capacity, she holds governance roles with her Iwi entity Te Tahuu o Tawakeheimoa Trust and represent Ngāti Rangiwewehi as a Trustee on Te Maru o Kaituna (A post-settlement co-governance entity for the Kaituna River). She is currently undertaking a Masters in Māori and Indigenous Leadership (University of Canterbury) and excited to be participating in INDIGI-X to broaden my networks, horizons, and knowledge base. She is married to Eric Short (Ngāti Porou, Cook Islands) and has four children, Rawiri (28), Manahi (20) Hinetaapora (18) and Pokaihau (17).

www.linkedin.com/in/nicki-douglas-62338037/



TE PURITANGA JEFFERIES

He uri tēnei nō Te Whakatōhea, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui me Ngāti Tūkorehe.

Te Puritanga is the Senior Māori Economic Development Advisor for the Greater Wellington Regional Council. Her career thus far has focused on regional and national Māori economic development, both strategic and operational. She started off in the private sector working as a Consultant for a Māori accounting and consulting company before moving into a central government and now working at the local government level.

Her key project at this time is the management of the recently launched Te Matarau a Māui, a regional Māori development strategy. The strategy signals the start of a journey of discovery where Māori can co-create, co-design and co-implement with other key players the economic, cultural, environmental, political and social pathways that will support prosperous Māori futures.

Te Puritanga also works alongside her Māori colleagues within Council to build cultural capability, work towards a Treaty model of partnership with mana whenua (the Māori tribes of our region) and developing opportunities for better engagement and collaboration with Māori, including social procurement.

www.linkedin.com/in/te-puritanga-jefferies-579a7275/



TATIANA KIWI-KNIGHT

E tū ana au ki te taumata o Ngongotahā e tū takotako rā. Ka titiro whakararo iho ki te iwi o Ngāti Whakaue i te waka o Te Arawa. E rere nei i ngā wai karekare o Rotoruanui-a-Kahumatamomoe. Ka ū te waka ki uta, ki te marae nukunuku-ātea o Te Papaiouru. Kia rongo i te reo pōhiri o Ngāti Te Ririū me Ngāti Pareto. E mihi nei, e karanga nei.

Tatiana (Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Raukawa) is the Manager of the Distributions and Initiatives Portfolio for Ngāti Whakaue Assets Trust – a small iwi asset holding trust based in Rotorua. The vision of the Trust is that the iwi is prosperous and exercises self-determination. Tatiana is living her dream of working for her tribe.

Tatiana graduated from Victoria University with degrees in international business and Spanish. She helped organise the World Indigenous Business Forum held in Rotorua in 2018, led the Rotorua Techweek programme in 2019. She has also been a part of the local organising committee for the Crankworx World Tour in Rotorua for two years – a world-renowned mountain biking event. Tatiana and her husband are also owners of a local tourism operation – Adventure Rooms.

www.linkedin.com/in/tatiana-kiwi-knight-3094a550/



DOUG MACREADIE

Te Arawa Waka, Tainui Waka

Doug is mixed ethnicity Maori and Scottish, born and raised in Aotearoa (New Zealand) and widely connected throughout his tribal regions of Te Arawa and Tainui.

He is currently the Principle Advisor Maori for Te Uru Rakau which is the New Zealand Ministry of Forestry. He is also a Land Trustee with Pukepoto Ahuwhenua Trust, Arapae Piopio, Otorhanga A4 A5, and Te Waro A.

He is also an advisor to Federation of Maori Authorities under Te Aukaha Maori Carbon Advisory and a part of the Te Arawa Lakes Trust Biodiversity team.

Doug has an extensive background in agriculture, fisheries and education sectors.

www.linkedin.com/in/douglas-macreadie-4679b850/



TAMAAIO STEWART

Ko Whāngārā-mai-tawhti te pūtahitanga o te tangata, Ko Whāngārā-mai-tawhti te pārekereke o te kōrero. Ko Paikea te tipua, te taniwha, te tangata. Ko Pukehapopo te maunga, ko Waiomoko te awa, ko WHangara mai tawhti te marae, ko Ngai Te Riwai te hapu, ko Ngati Konohi te iwi. Hoatu to kauhau taniwha ki uta!

Raised on the East Coast of Aotearoa Tamaaio developed a passion for entrepreneurship, investing, trading and building knowledge of the financial sector. This passion led to successfully completing a Bachelor of Business Analysis, majoring in Finance and Digital Business, as well as the the creation of his own label 'No Signal'.

Tamaaio is currently working as a business analyst at Te Arawa Fisheries focusing on Māori and Iwi development creating sustainable, long-term jobs and opportunities for their Iwi. Tamaaio also works for Clearpoint Ltd, a financial advisory firm with international clients in London and Japan. His future aspirations are to further his financial education by completing his Masters and help Maori build their financial capability.

www.linkedin.com/in/tamaaio-stewart/



SCOTT WIKOHIKA

Scott (Ngāti Tuwharetoa) currently oversees teacher capability, professional development, as well as programme and framework design and development at one of New Zealand's largest Private Tertiary Enterprises.

He has a background in banking and finance, secondary and tertiary education and is passionate about Māori economic and educational development. Scott serves on a number of not-for-profit boards.

Scott has an MBA from the University of Waikato, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and German from Victoria University in Wellington, as well as a Postgraduate Diplomas in Business Management and Teaching.

Scott is married, with teenage twin girls – Maea and Tearani.

www.linkedin.com/in/scott-wikohika-598103b/



KANÁ:TA'

HELLO - KWE KWE - BOOZHOO -
ULLUKKUT - ASUJUTILLI - TANISI -
AANIIN - WOTZIYE - TANSHI

A warm welcome to the delegates
joining us from Turtle Island.





LINDA BERG

Linda was born and raised in Chilliwack, BC. She is a member of the Stl'at'imx Nation.

Her professional background is as an executive with First Nation governments and with non-profits.

She recently completed a Bachelor of Commerce in Entrepreneurial Management and will be applying to begin an MBA in September 2021. She is an Adjudicator with the Law Society of British Columbia.

Her interests include animals, traveling and cooking.

www.linkedin.com/in/linda-berg-580145105/



TASHA BROOKS

Tasha is from Cowichan Tribes First Nation and has extensive experience working with and for Indigenous communities and organizations. She understands the need for Indigenous-led research and looks forward to contributing to the body of knowledge in Indigenous entrepreneurship. Tasha aims to inspire and empower people along their journey and progress towards strong, unified nations. She currently works as an Indigenous Education Navigator at Vancouver Island University, where she taught Intro to Management last year as a term instructor. She is also the Board Chair for Cowichan Tribes Fishing Enterprise, on VIU's Alumni Board, and was a previous National Student Director for CANDO.

Tasha has completed all the coursework for a Doctor of Business Administration through Walden University and has transferred to Royal Roads to complete her final years. She graduated from Vancouver Island University in 2016 with a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Science in International Management, building upon her Bachelor of Business Administration (2011) and Technician of Aboriginal Economic Development Certificate (2015) from CANDO.

Most importantly, Tasha is a new mom to her little boy Hunter.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/brookstasha/>



PATRICIA CROWE

Patricia Crowe is a Metis-Cree woman from Northern Saskatchewan who follows her traditional teachings and lives a cultural way of life. Her thirty years' work experience spans public and government organizations with her current portfolio immersed in Indigenous Economic Development. Most recently, working as a Business Advisor to the eleven First Nations of the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council located in Treaty 4 Territory focussed on Entrepreneurship, Business Development and Nation Engagement.

Patricia currently serves as a Board of Director on the Saskatchewan Indigenous Economic Development Network and Saskatchewan Economic Development Alliance where partnerships, relationships and strategies assist in providing opportunities that contribute to economic independence and individual livelihood of Indigenous people. Patricia organizes business and economic events and forums with a clear vision on capacity development, networking, communication and advocacy. She is also an advocate for Indigenous women and families contributing fifteen years experience on various commissions and boards including the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Circle Corporation and Native Women's Association of Canada. She has also contributed to many community, provincial and national efforts to raise awareness about and eliminate violence against women and girls.

www.linkedin.com/in/patricia-a-crowe-84781974/

LEIGHTON GALL

Leighton is a Métis entrepreneur and lives in Victoria, BC. He is currently a partner at Standard Directional Technologies and conducts operations in the Caribbean, USA and Canada. He has 15 years of experience in Russia, Japan and Canada working on geothermal and oil & gas projects.

For the past few years, he has been busy in startups and created a successful cannabis retail company in British Columbia and recently founded Rundle Mountain Ink, a tattoo company in Banff National Park.

Leighton is currently studying at Royal Roads University in the Master of Global Management program. He is also completing graduate studies in the Science and Policy of Climate Change.

He is an advocate for Indigenous projects and advises several Indigenous leaders and aspiring entrepreneurs on business planning and promoting financial literacy in their communities.

www.linkedin.com/in/leightongall





DENISE HALFYARD

Denise is a proud Wet'suwet'en, Tsimshian, Gitksan entrepreneur. She is from the Laksilyu clan, which means small frog.

She has been running her own businesses since 2007. She started Halfyard Designs, specializing in wedding floral design, earning her a BC Indigenous Business award in 2011.

In 2007, she also became an equal shareholder in Halfyard Productions Inc., a production studio specializing in voice-over and audio production. In 2019, Denise was hired as the event coordinator for the Tears to Hope Society annual relay, bringing awareness to the MMIWG of the Highway of Tears.

In 2020, Denise started The Frog Radio, an online radio station devoted to Indigenous music of all genres, 24/7.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/deniselhalfyard/>



MILES JOLLIFFE

Miles Jolliffe is a registered Professional Engineer, and who is now actively working in the field of Indigenous Relations to promote the inclusion, participation and benefits for Indigenous peoples during the development, construction and operations of major resource development projects in Canada.

Miles works directly with affected Indigenous communities, businesses and Peoples across a number of capacities including consultation and accommodation, design modification, project management, contracting and procurement, regulatory compliance and Project Agreement implementation.

Miles is Inuvialuit, from the Mackenzie Delta region of Canada's Northwest Territories. He currently lives in Vancouver, with his young family.

A self-described "lifelong learner", Miles recently graduated from Simon Fraser University's Executive MBA program, with a focus on Indigenous Business and Leadership.

www.linkedin.com/in/miles-jolliffe-peng/



SHERRY MATTICE

Sherry Mattice (nee McCarthy) is a member of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations, located in the Nuw-chah-nulth territory, and is the mother of three children.

During her undergraduate degree, she served as the Chairperson of the Vancouver Island University (VIU) Students' Union and a student representative on the University's board of governors. After completing her master's, she went on to work for the University in a community outreach capacity, engaging with Indigenous community members to promote educational opportunities and community development goals.

As she completes her final graduate degree, a Doctorate of Business Administration, she has returned to VIU's main campus and works to support Indigenous learners. As a doctoral researcher, she is working on a case study on Indigenous entrepreneurship with a concentration on Leadership. Concurrently, she is actively engaged in VIU's work on reconciliation and serves as the Chair of the Faculty Association's Decolonization, Reconciliation, and Indigenization Standing Committee (DRISC).

www.linkedin.com/in/sherrymattice/



SCOTT MOUSSEAU

Scott Mousseau is originally from Thunder Bay, ON and is a member of Fort William First Nation. Scott currently lives in the London, ON area and works as the Manager of Advancement Services at Fanshawe College and has stepped into various roles and committees that demonstrates his leadership skills and strategic mindset. In addition to Fanshawe College, Scott owns and operates a digital accounting firm based in Ontario that provides accounting and consulting services to individuals and businesses across Canada.

Scott has been a volleyball coach for many youth teams, and was recently selected as a Head Coach for Aboriginal Team Ontario that will be represented at the next North American Indigenous Games. He has also acted as student mentor within the Larry Myny Mentorship program at Fanshawe College.

Scott is a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA, CMA) and recently completed his Masters of Business Administration (MBA) at Athabasca University. He has focused his career around optimizing processes and efficiencies by the use of technology. He has been married to his wonderful wife, Emily, for 10 years and they have a son, Benjamin, who is 2.

www.linkedin.com/in/scott-mousseau-cpa-cma/



ANGELA PREISSEL

Ey swayel mekw wat! Angela tel skwix. Hello everyone! My name is Angela. Angela is of Leq'á:mel First Nation within Stó:lō territory, also known as the Fraser Valley of British Columbia. Her Grandmother, Marie (Johnson) Preissl, grew up in Leq'á:mel and moved to the territories of the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and Musqueam Peoples.

Angela holds a unique passion for Indigenous rights and Indigenous-led sustainability. Guided by her Grandmother's teachings and an education that specializes in resource and environmental management, as well as Indigenous studies, Angela is equipped with professional and cultural teachings to bridge Indigenous knowledge and science. She is on a journey in which practicing cultural activities such as learning the Halq'eméylem language, harvesting cedar bark, carving, and smoking salmon helps her to feel grounded and connected.

Angela began as a student with Natural Resources Canada and after graduation, became a Policy Advisor focusing on Indigenous monitoring of energy infrastructure in western Canada. She is now a Forestry Development Officer with the Canadian Forest Service working with Indigenous communities across British Columbia and Yukon to support economic development in forestry.

www.linkedin.com/in/angela-preissl-9890b415b/



PATRICIA SAYER

Patricia is a CPA Candidate and works as a Manager of Standards and Certification at the First Nations Financial Management Board. In this role, she works as part of a team that delivers certification services to First Nation Governments across Canada.

Patricia is passionate about using her skills, experience and worldview to contributing to the strengthening of Indigenous communities and Peoples across Canada. She has served in an advisory capacity and as a mentor on issues related to inclusion and education for Indigenous people and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Vancouver Native Housing Society and Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society.

Patricia is a proud urban Cree-Métis woman originally from Saskatchewan who is grateful to make her home in Vancouver as a guest on the unceded, ancestral and sacred territory of the x̣ẉməθkwəỵəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.

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VITI

BULA VINAKA

A warm welcome to the
delegates who join us from
the Islands of Happiness





ADI KOILA CAGINITOBA GANILAU

Adi Koila Caginitoba Ganilau is a direct descendant from three of the most powerful households in Fiji. The Overlord of Lau, High Chief of Cakaudrove and head of the Ai Sokula Clan and the Paramount Chief of the Burebasaga Confederacy. She owns and operates the “Haus of Koila” fashion line, a Pacific Island brand that creates and promotes authentic indigenous Fijian prints encompassing all tastes and occasions. The designs and prints also depict a close link between the Melanesian and Polynesian artifacts, motifs and monograms, marine fauna and flora, relics and symbols of our rich Pacific Cultures.

The purpose preservation of Indigenous Fijian cultural heritage is central to Adi Koila’s work. As a custodian of her Culture and Heritage and as an Established Fashion Designer, Adi Koila maintains her fashion platform to create an awareness of self and cultural identity whilst journeying in the evolution of her purpose.



ULA KOTOISUVA - MACOMBER

Ulalia is an i-Taukei Lauan, originally from the tiny island of Moce in the Lau Group of the Fiji Islands.

An event staging manager by profession for the last two years based in Nadi, Ulalia has witnessed the migration of three generations across the island to facilitate jobs in the hospitality and aviation industry. Skilled in Audio Visual delivery, she is keen to facilitate the use of technology to aid the teaching of i-Taukei language, etiquette, dance, and the various medium of the arts. Her interest in the Indigenous or i-Taukei issues also stems from the lack of authentic vetting of i-Taukei performances (Meke).

The mother of 4 teenagers, Ulalia is also very involved in community-level sporting activities, which has sparked her interest and curiosity in how traditional/respectful etiquette transcends into everyday life and how that would help youth interaction.

Ulalia is committed to using her expertise to help bridge the gaps in the lives of the modern i-Taukei youth, and looks forward to implementing the advice shared during the INDIGI-X discussions.

www.linkedin.com/in/ula-kotoisuva-macomber-71184812/



GEORGINA NAIGULEVU

Georgina is from Rotuma, a volcanic island approximately 465km north of Fiji. Although Rotuma is its own nation, it is currently administered by Fiji as a dependency. The Rotuman language is listed on the UNESCO List of Endangered Languages as "Definitely Endangered".

Georgina, born with limited mobility, is an Indigenous Christian Advocate for mainstreaming Persons with Disability through strategic partnerships toward disability entrepreneurship. She is currently employed by Fiji's only locally owned Commercial Bank – HFC as Senior Manager Applications, Projects and Innovation. She is the current Chairwoman of Fiji Women's Fund and the Vice-Chairwoman of the Internet Society – Pacific Islands Chapter. She is the Managing Director of her family-owned business, HOO-SEAR (SOUTH PACIFIC) ENTERPRISE and is a member of the Youth Entrepreneurs Council. Georgina is also the Co-Founder of "Mobile Me Map-a-thon" which crowd-sourced an accessibility audit of public pavements and roads for the disability movement as a shared experience to change the hearts and mindsets of participants.

www.linkedin.com/in/georginanaigulevu/



WATESONI NATA JR

Watesoni is the owner and operator of a new homeware store in Suva called "The Merch". The Merch imports and retails kitchen appliances, hardware items, power tools, flat pack furniture, cleaning chemicals and electronics. Having started operations in 2018 and into its third year, The Merch now has a following of 40k+ on its Facebook page, a team of 14 employees and draws relatively large crowds to its New Stock opening and Market days.

Apart from running his business fulltime, Watesoni is also an accredited Mediator with the Fiji Mediation Centre and a qualified lawyer having attained his Mediation accreditation with the Singapore Mediation Centre and Law Degree and Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the University of Fiji. Watesoni has extensive experience in mediating consumer, employment and commercial disputes - having previously being employed as a full time mediator, amongst other legal capacities. He is also the current Chairman of the Young Entrepreneurs Council and also serves on the Board of the Fiji Commerce Employers Federation, Fiji's private sector voice.

Watsoni loves a bit of fishing, ping pong and relaxing by the ocean during his spare time.

www.linkedin.com/in/watesoni-nata-jr-87922379/



MOIRA JO-ANN SOLVALU

Moira is the owner of a fashion brand called 8Mountains and is one of Fiji's most highly awarded designers. 8Mountains' motto is "Imagine, Believe, and Create" and has a production house based in the city of Lautoka.

Fashion designing was a passion that Moira organically nurtured alongside a thriving career in the shipping industry. Eventually, she resigned from her management role to follow her dreams in the fashion industry, which led to her winning Designer of the Year, People's Choice Designer, and numerous other National SME Awards including special recognition from the Prime Ministers Business Excellence Awards. In 2016, Moira was appointed as the Vice-Chairperson for the newly formed Young Entrepreneurs Council in Fiji and inspires many entrepreneurs to remain resilient.

When Covid-19 hit Fiji, Moira diversified her fashion house into the production of sustainable products such as reusable face masks, reusable diapers, and reusable menstrual pads earning a gold certification from Days For Girls International. In her spare time, Moira enjoys playing volleyball, writing, and spending quality time with her family especially her 12 year-old son Ethan.



NAVI TUIVUNIWAI

Navi Tuivuniwai is an I-Taukei professional with more than 15 years of experience in international trade, macroeconomic policy development, and private sector investment in Fiji. He is now employed as an agri-business development specialist with an Australian and NZ-funded program called PHAMA Plus.

Prior to his current role, he was the Fiji Trade Commissioner to PNG since 2016 tasked with building long-term, meaningful and sustainable trade and investment relationships between Fiji, PNG and the key Melanesian countries of Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and New Caledonia. He has amassed experience having held senior economist and analyst positions in the public sector including the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism and statutory bodies – the Fiji Revenue and Customs Services and the Reserve Bank of Fiji.

Navi was born and raised in a small farming community of Lomaivuna, Naitasiri. He still operates a semi-commercial farm from the same location specializing in ginger, root crops, and vegetable farming. In his current role, he specializes in rural agriculture development and has a great passion for uplifting the livelihoods of rural Fijians.

www.linkedin.com/in/navitalai-tuivuniwai-3945b213/

INDIGI-X

Co-Founders

CHRIS KARAMEA INSLEY

Chris is the CEO of Te Taumata, a key Maori partner for international trade issues and direct advisor to the New Zealand government. He is also a member of the APEC 2021 Business Leadership Group.

He has more than 30 years of experience working with Indigenous groups, government agencies and international investors in a variety of roles around the world. His life-long focus has been to help Indigenous groups achieve long-term social and environmental well-being through better investment in and development of their natural assets.

Chris is passionate about helping communities shape their sustainable, long-term development plans and is a champion for Indigenous Professionals gaining international experience.

www.linkedin.com/in/chriskarameainsley/



RAYLENE WHITFORD

Raylene is a Cree-Métis finance professional with a well-established career in the international finance and energy sector. Her previous leadership positions include the Executive Director for a company listed on the London Stock Exchange and directing a USD 42 billion capital efficiency project for a national oil company in the Middle East.

In 2014, Raylene took a sabbatical from her corporate role with KPMG to return to Canada to roughneck on a triple-pad drilling rig in order to gain experience in the field. She is a strong advocate for Indigenous Professionals gaining international experience. Raylene is a Chartered Accountant, has an MBA in Oil and Gas Management from Aberdeen Business School (Scotland) and is currently completing a PhD in Indigenous Studies and Business at the University of Alberta. She is also on the Board of the Clean Resource Innovation Network in Canada.

www.linkedin.com/in/raylene-whitford



APPENDIX: WEEKLY MEETINGS

All meetings will be held by Zoom and chaired by Chris Karamea Insely and Raylene Whitford. The agendas for the weekly meetings are outlined below. As the program evolves, the agenda may be subject to change.

Week 1: Introductions; Vision and Scope (2 hrs)

Canada: 18 February 2021 18:00 - 20:00 EST / 15:00 - 17:00 PST

New Zealand: 19 February 2021, 12:00 - 14:00 NZDT

Fiji: 19 February 2021, 11:00 - 13:00 FST

- Opening Prayer / Karakia
- Welcome from Chris Karamea Insley and Raylene Whitford
- Logistics / Ways of Working
- Brief introductions from delegates (2 -3 minutes each)
- Background of the program, objectives, outcomes
- High-level discussion potential questions
- Closing Prayer / Karakia

Homework: self-select groups and communicate to Raylene before the next meeting

WEEKLY MEETINGS (CONT.)

Week 2: Group Work, Brainstorming (1.5 hours)

Canada: 25 February 2021 18:00 - 19:30 EST / 15:00 - 16:30 PST

New Zealand: 26 February 2021, 12:00 - 13:30 NZDT

Fiji: 26 February 2021, 11:00 - 12:30 FST

- Opening Prayer / Karakia
- General discussion of contemporary issues for Indigenous Professionals in business
- Breakout rooms: all groups will be pre-assigned a “breakout room” where they will have a smaller meeting with group members to discuss thoughts on what topic/question they wish to explore (60 mins)
- Re-group and discussion of key themes, thoughts, feedback
- Closing Prayer / Karakia

Homework: Connect with group members during the week to keep the ideas flowing!

Week 3: Idea Maturation (1.5 hours)

Canada: 4 March 2021 18:00 - 19:30 EST / 15:00 - 16:30 PST

New Zealand: 5 March 2021, 12:00 - 13:30 NZDT

Fiji: 5 March 2021, 11:00 - 12:30 FST

- Opening Prayer / Karakia
- Breakout rooms: sub-groups will continue their discussions independently
- Closing Prayer / Karakia

Homework: Continue discussions with group members

WEEKLY MEETINGS (CONT.)

Week 4: Group Feedback (2 hrs)

Canada: 11 March 2021 18:00 - 20:00 EST / 15:00 - 17:00 PST

New Zealand: 12 March 2021, 12:00 - 14:00 NZDT

Fiji: 12 March 2021, 11:00 - 13:00 FST

- Opening Prayer / Karakia
- Group discussion of topics: elevator pitch of the presentation and group feedback
- Breakout Rooms
- Closing Prayer / Karakia

Homework: Draft 10 min presentation and skeleton of the final report

Week 5: Preparation for Final Presentations (1.5 hrs)

Canada: 18 March 2021 18:00 - 19:30 EST / 15:00 - 16:30 PST

New Zealand: 19 March 2021, 12:00 - 13:30 NZDT

Fiji: 19 March 2021, 11:00 - 12:30 FST

- Opening Prayer / Karakia
- Breakout rooms: finalise presentations and plans for final report submissions
- Closing Prayer / Karakia

Homework: finalise presentations and send to Raylene by 22 Feb 2021

FINAL PRESENTATIONS - 25 / 26 MARCH 2021

We will invite government and industry delegates from Canada and New Zealand to attend your presentations this week. The full list of invited attendees will be confirmed before the session.

Week 6: Final Presentations

Canada: 25 March 2021 18:00 - 20:00 EST / 15:00 - 17:00 PST

New Zealand: 26 March 2021, 12:00 - 14:00 NZDT

Fiji: 26 March 2021, 11:00 - 13:00 FST

- Opening Prayer / Karakia
- Session introduction
- Introduction of external delegate attendees
- Presentations from each group (10 mins each)
- Discussion and feedback
- Closing thoughts
- Closing Prayer / Karakia

A final report collating the cohort's recommendations will be drafted after the final presentations and distributed to industry and government contacts.

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