

At this date, it is possibly the sole conduit organization specifically focused on the communication of Traditional Indigenous perspectives, the most marginalized, underrepresented of all indigenous groups. At the same time, Traditional views hold perhaps the most potent insight essentially needed for developing deeply necessary strategies for a sustainable World Future.

At the beginning of this Decade for the Indigenous Peoples of the World, we were encouraged to see new Bridges of communication being developed between Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations. We looked forward to - confirmed by words and actions of Secretary Generals Insanally and Boutros-Boutros Gali - a new era of Global Partnership. We see the contributions of the Wittenburg Center as a gateway to develop channels of this sorely needed communication and partnership, especially important in view of the monumental environmental and ethical crises confronting humanity at this juncture in time. We are alarmed by the recent news that the Status of this organization, which plays such a crucial link in the representation of our viewpoint, is in question.

As Indigenous leaders, we unanimously feel the survival of our Planet Earth is at issue, as evidenced through the Messages heard at the Cry of the Earth Conference. After such encouraging roads of participatory communication developing between the United Nations Organizational Structures and Indigenous Leadership, it would be a grave step backwards to eliminate the very organizations helping to foster this process. Rather, they should fully supported, and recognized for the "critical and valuable role they play in this very needed rapprochement and reconciliation with the World's Indigenous people".

We submit our serious concern that these communication pathways, that the hope and relationship forming between the World's Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations be fostered.

Kitcho Megweitch.



Traditional Chief William Commanda, Algonquin Nation