

1 Indigenous engagement with the Canadian energy economy

HOW FAR WE'VE COME

Thursday, August 20, 2020
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. EDT



Stephen Buffalo
President and CEO of the Indian Resource Council



Stephen Buffalo is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Indian Resource Council of Canada. Mr. Buffalo is a proud member of the Samson Cree Nation. He graduated secondary school from Athol Murray College at Notre Dame, Saskatchewan. Mr. Buffalo holds a B.A. from Medicine Hat College and B.M. from University of Lethbridge. He worked for Peace Hills Trust for 15 years, most recently as the Regional Manager for Southern Alberta.

Mr. Buffalo sits on a numerous boards including being the first ever Indigenous Governor for the Canadian Energy Executive Association, Samson Management 2009 Ltd., University of Calgary ReDevelop Initiative, St. Mary’s University – Calgary, and is the Vice President of the Notre Dame Hounds – National Alumni. Mr. Buffalo is traditionally and culturally connected. He is an avid golfer and enjoys dedicating his free time to coaching hockey.

Heather Exner-Pirot
Research Advisor to the Indigenous Resource Network



Heather Exner-Pirot is a Research Advisor to the Indigenous Resource Network. She has worked with the Indian Resource Council and National Coalition of Chiefs on advocacy and research, and has been a Board member with the Saskatchewan Indigenous Economic Development Network for eight years. She has held several positions related to health, education and development in northern communities at the University of Saskatchewan, the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development and the University of the Arctic, and is currently a senior consultant with Morris Interactive.

JP Gladu
President of the Alberta to Alaska Railway; Principal at Mokwateh



Jean Paul (JP) Gladu served as the President and CEO of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) from September 2012 until April 2020. Anishinaabe from Thunder Bay JP is a member of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek located on the eastern shores of Lake Nipigon, Ontario. JP completed a forestry technician diploma in 1993, obtained an undergraduate degree in forestry from Northern Arizona University in 2000, holds an Executive MBA from Queens University and the ICD.D from Rotman School of Management University of Toronto. JP has over 25 years of experience in the natural resource sector. His career path includes work with Aboriginal communities and

organizations, environmental non-government organizations, industry and governments from across Canada.

Currently, JP served on the Board of Ontario Power Generation for 4.5 years and currently serves on the board of Noront Resources. He was appointed as the Chancellor of St. Paul's University College Waterloo in 2017. His previous appointments include Canadian Electricity Association Public Advisory Panel, Colleges and Institutes Canada (previously ACCC), the Northern Policy Institute, Canadian Foundation for Economic Education, advisory member to the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, a committee member to the Provincial Forest Policy Committee. In 2014, he was identified as a Diversity 50 Board Ready Candidate from the Canadian Board Diversity Council and a recipient of the Community Service Award – Transformation Awards from Diversity Magazine.

Ken Coates

Munk Senior Fellow, Macdonald-Laurier Institute



Ken Coates is MLI's Senior Fellow in Aboriginal and Northern Canadian Issues. He is the Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation in the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Saskatchewan. He has served at universities across Canada and at the University of Waikato (New Zealand), an institution known internationally for its work on Indigenous affairs. He has also worked as a consultant for Indigenous groups and governments in Canada, New Zealand, and Australia as well as for the United Nations, companies, and think tanks. He is the author of *Treaty Peoples: Finding Common Ground with Aboriginal Canadians*. He has previously published on such topics as Arctic sovereignty, Aboriginal rights in the Maritimes, northern treaty and land claims processes, regional economic development, and government strategies for working with Indigenous peoples in Canada. His book, *A Global History of Indigenous Peoples; Struggle and Survival*, offered a world history perspective on the issues facing Indigenous communities and governments. He was co-author of the Donner Prize winner for the best book on public policy in Canada, *Arctic Front: Defending Canada in the Far North*, and was short-listed for the same award for his earlier work, *The Marshall Decision* and *Aboriginal Rights in the Maritimes*. Ken contributes regularly, through newspaper pieces and radio and television interviews, on contemporary discussions on northern, Indigenous, and technology-related issues.