

INA MC NEIL

Ina Mc Neil was born in Little Eagle, South Dakota on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. She was raised by her grandmother, Cecilia One Bull, who was the daughter of Chief Henry Oscar One Bull, and the granddaughter of Chief Sitting Bull. She was raised as a traditional Hunkpapa Lakota Sioux and was taught to value customs and her Native religion. Ina is a skilled artist whose work has been recognized across the country. She is a frequent lecturer at local universities and schools, and has received several leadership awards from the local Native American community.

During the sixties she worked for the South Dakota Civil Rights Committee and has served on the NGO Committee for the 1993 International Year of the World's Indigenous People. Ina is the proud mother of five children and a grandmother to nine. She resides in Hempstead, New York, USA. As an artist and lecturer, she continues to create works that proudly and honorably sustain the traditional and spiritual legacy of her Nation.

LUIS DELGADO HURTADO

Luis Delgado Hurtado was born in the Andean village of Acopia and raised in Cuzco, Peru, the ancient capital of the Inka civilization, where he now resides.

He is the co-founder and president of Yachay Wasi, a Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and associated with the UN Department of Public Information. Yachay Wasi, which means "House of learning" in *runasimi* (Quechua), is based in New York City and in Cuzco, Peru.

Luis directs cultural and sustainable development projects in his native community, undertaken by Yachay Wasi, such as the environmental project Recovery of the Circuit of Four Lakes in the Peruvian Andes, now registered as a Partnership with the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

Luis is a photographer. He tries to convey thru his art the pride and love he feels for his heritage and his people. Since 1985, his photographs have been seen in USA in venues such as the United Nations (2005, 2003, 2000), Edison Community College, Fort Myers, Florida (1998), the NYC Baha'i Center (1999, 1995, 1994, 1993) and the American Museum of Natural History in NYC (1999, 1992, 1988, 1986)

Andrea Carmen, Yaqui Indian Nation, has been a staff member of the International Indian Treaty Council since 1983 and IITC's Executive Director since 1992. Andrea has many years of experience working with Indigenous communities from North, Central, South America and the Pacific. She was a founding member of the Indigenous Initiative for Peace with Nobel Laureate Rigoberta Menchu and has participated as a human rights observer and mediator in crises situations in the US, Chiapas, Mexico and Ecuador. Andrea has extensive experience working at United Nations bodies addressing human rights and Indigenous Peoples, and is IITC's team leaders for work on the UN Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. She was one of two Indigenous representatives at the June 97 UNGASS Earth Summit +5 to formally address the United Nations General Assembly for the first time in history. Andrea has served as an advisor to the World Council of Churches, the North American Indigenous Peoples Bio-Diversity project and the First Nations Development/Eagle Staff Fund Native Food Systems Initiative. She has served as the co-coordinator for the Chickaloon Village Tribal Environmental Program and a member of the Indigenous Environmental Network National Council, a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Working Group on Extractive Industry and Bio-Diversity, and the Calvert Group Social Investment Advisory Council. Andrea was selected as an expert participant as well as the Rapporteur for the United Nations "Expert Seminar on Indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources and their relationship to land" in Geneva, February 2006. She graduated from the University of California with a Degree in Women's Studies, and was selected, as "Speaker of the Year" by People Are Speaking in San Francisco. She has three sons and two grandchildren.

Parshuram Tamang, a member of the Call of the Earth Steering Committee, is a Professor of Economics at Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu in Nepal.

Parshuram is of Tamang descent from the eastern part of the region - the Tamang people being one of the largest indigenous populations in Nepal.

He is a human and democratic rights activist and is also one of the leading architects for indigenous movements in both Nepal and Asia. Over the past 30 years his efforts have been instrumental in the:

- reorganisation of the Tamang Peoples' Organisation
- foundation of the Indigenous Federation and Human Rights Organisations
- establishment of a National Human Rights Commission via direct lobbying
- formation of national, regional and international coalitions for the promotion of concerned peoples professional and social interests.

Formerly president of *Nepal Tamang Ghedung*, an association for the largest Indigenous peoples of Nepal, he now serves as Chief Advisor. In addition to various other roles he holds, Parshuram is:

- Chairman of the International Tamang Council
- Chairman of the Indigenous Nationalities' Campaign for Human Rights
- member of 'Save the Democratic Rights Movements' and
- core member of the National Environmental Coalition of Indigenous Peoples' Organisations of Nepal.

He is also a founding member of the Nepal Federation of Nationalities (NEFEN) (1990) and until 2000, was General Secretary. NEFEN's membership has increased from eight indigenous organisations to 46 members since 1990.

In 2002, he led the organisation of the First Tamang International Conference. He has also successfully led the Nepalese indigenous movement to: gain recognition of 59 indigenous nationalities; establish the National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities; introduce indigenous languages in government owned radio media, and secure space for indigenous policy and programme in separate chapters of the Ninth and Tenth plan of Nepal.

On the international scene, Parshuram has remained active serving as Executive member of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, a regional organisation in Asia (1996-2000) and Executive Secretary for the International Alliance's Secretariat based in London, United Kingdom (2000-2002). He is currently an International Coordinating Committee member for the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests.

He was elected Vice Chairman for the United Nations Permanent Forum (UNPF) on Indigenous Issues (2002-2004) from the Asia Regional Indigenous Conference, and will be serving a second term from 2005-2007.

“The focus of all my work is on a rights-based approach to Social Justice for Indigenous peoples and my education has given me the tools for this ongoing human rights struggle.”

Mr. John Scott

Through his Father (Jack Scott) and his Grandmother (Catherine Maud Evans), Mr. Scott is a descendant of the Iningai people (Indigenous Australian) of central Queensland (Barcaldine area). They are *Freshwater Murris*.

Mr. Scott has a significant background in education, social policy, law, indigenous rights and traditional knowledge. He has moved through various incarnations to get where he is today including high school teacher, Aboriginal Education Advisor, Chief Educational Officer for Aboriginal Programs, Deputy Director for the School of Indigenous Australian Studies at James Cook University, Manager of the Cultural Rights Unit of the National Policy Branch with National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), Indigenous Human Rights Officer with the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights (OHCHR), and second in charge of the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Currently Mr. Scott is the Programme Officer for Traditional Knowledge for the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

Mr. Scott has led Indigenous Australian delegations to many different conferences in many different parts of the world. Through these conferences he has worked in and on many different Indigenous issues including education, culture, traditional knowledge, and human rights. Through his work with the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Scott has successfully created a mutually beneficial dialogue between indigenous peoples and governments for protecting and promoting Traditional Knowledge.

Mr. Scott's education: Diploma of Secondary Teaching (Arts/Humanities), Graduate Diploma in Aboriginal Education (with Distinction), Master of (Indigenous) Legal Studies, and Doctorate of Philosophy (Indigenous Issues - ongoing).

Albert DeTERVILLE

Nationality: Saint Lucian

Professions: Anthropologist, Communications Consultant, Cultural Administrator, Human Rights Defender/Reporter and Socio-linguist.

Academic Qualifications: Masters Degree and Post-graduate Doctorate Degree; Universite des Antilles et de la Guyane, Schoelcher Campus, Martinique.

Diploma in Human Rights Reporting; United Nations Staff College and the International Training Centre/ILO.

Certificate of Recognition in International Human Rights Law; Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis, USA.

Researcher in the Cultures, History and Geography of the Americas.

Member of several International Research Institutions.

Chairperson of several national, regional and international IPOs and NGOs.

Functionary of several Hemispheric and International Working Groups on Indigenous Issues