



IAIA announces a Luncheon with Guest Speaker Peter Croal – Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Ottawa

Location: Glenbow Museum – ConocoPhillips Theatre – MAIN FLOOR
130 - 9 Avenue S.E. Calgary, Alberta

Date: Tuesday November 9, 2010 from 11.30 to 1.30 p.m.

Topic: Working with Indigenous Peoples as Vital Partners for Successful Ventures

Registration: Register on-line at IAIAWNC.org before November 3rd 2010
Limited number of tickets also available at the door

Cost: \$40 (includes lunch and \$30 IAIA-WNC Annual Membership)
\$25 students (includes lunch and IAIA-WNC Annual Membership)

Synopsis

Working with Indigenous Peoples as Vital Partners for Successful Extractive Industry Ventures

The world's Indigenous Peoples number about 370 million people, are present in over 70 countries and represent 5000 distinct cultural and ethnic groups. For centuries, their voices and concerns with respect to extractive industry development have not been heard. But this situation is rapidly changing. Court cases, international declarations and even Hollywood (Avatar) have provided Indigenous Peoples with platforms from which their concerns about extractive industry development can be heard. For the private sector, there are three roles that they can take when developing natural resources in the vicinity of indigenous populations. These are:

- intruder,
- good neighbour or
- capacity builder.

Companies that engage indigenous peoples early and well in the extractive process can spend more time on the business they are in, rather than fighting protracted legal battles in the courts and trying to manage asymmetric public relations catastrophes. Progressive companies take

time to build relationships and spend extensive time discussing project opportunities and issues, rather than treating community investments from a purely technical and managerial point of view to end up solely with a list of community demands.

Corporate Social Responsibility today at its heart is about building and maintaining trust between the community and company. The need to build cooperative relationships with indigenous communities in the years ahead is gaining in strategic importance. The need for energy and natural resources will continue to grow, and are now strategic and security issues with some of the most powerful military forces in the world. Many Indigenous groups are located on or near ore bodies, reservoirs and forests where there will be a huge demand for development in the years ahead. However, the negative effects of climate change are affecting indigenous peoples in a disproportionate way, and are putting new and poorly understood stresses on the indigenous community. Therefore, the combination of climate change stresses plus poorly planned community relationship building, can make for a flashpoint of tension and potential conflict. These problems can quickly become a security of supply issue. The need for profit and building self reliant and resilient communities are not mutually exclusive. In fact they are now at the core of progressive business and community development models. This presentation will expand on these issues.

About the Presenter: Peter Croal began his career as a petroleum exploration geologist in Alberta. Peter has close to 30 years of poverty reduction development experience. During this time he has worked as an environmental specialist in Canada where he assisted First Nations in their economic development and environmental sustainability. Since 1993 Peter has been working with the Canadian International Development Agency where he develops programs for CIDA, in conjunction with developing countries, on the integration of environmental sustainability criteria into poverty reduction programs. Peter has a broad range of exposure to development culture as he has travelled to over 30 developing countries, lived in Namibia for 2 years and has worked in the private sector, federal government, NGO (as employee and director) and is also advising the City of Ottawa on their environmental activities. He also advises international organizations such as the OECD, World Bank and UNEP.

This presentation is co-sponsored by IAIA-WNC (www.iaiwnc.org) and MSES Inc. (www.mses.ca)”