

THE

INTERNATIONAL FUNDERS
IFIP
FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Sharing Circle

SPRING/SUMMER 2008

ON THE GROUND:

IFIP Facilitates Donor Access to Mesoamerica



2008 Mexico and Central American Regional Convening, Queretaro Mexico, January 18-20, 2008

In its quest to increase support for Indigenous Peoples on the ground, International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) decided to take a risk: they organized their very first regional convening focused on the Mesoamerica region in Queretaro, Mexico. The gathering brought nearly 200 people together from all over the world. The convening theme, Awakening Consciousness and Forming Alliances: Indigenous Peoples and Philanthropy, symbolized the start of new beginnings. The goal was threefold: to bring donors, NGO's and regional Indigenous leaders together, to increase awareness of Indigenous issues in the region, and to encourage further collaboration between all three groups to start the dialogue for a more effective mechanism of funding for Indigenous Peoples in the Mesoamerican area.

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Lt to Rt, James Stauch, Program Manager at Gordon Foundation, Patrick Johnston, President and CEO of Gordon Foundation, Evelyn Arce-White of IFIP and Theresa Fay Bustillos, Chair of IFIP and Director of Levi Strauss Foundation- IFIP Annual Award presented at Council on Foundations

INTERNATIONAL FUNDERS FOR
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ANNUAL AWARD

**Walter and Duncan Gordon
Foundation, May 4, 2008**

In recognition of their efforts to support First Nations, Inuit and other Northern Peoples to shape public policy reflective of and reinforcing cultural priorities and traditions.

"Congratulations to the Foundation on the award. It is well deserved. The Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation has facilitated so much good work in the Canadian Arctic and has been so helpful in getting Northern peoples messages out to the broader Canadian public and internationally as well. Arctic Athabaskan Council thanks you for the support that you have given us over the years and the relationships that you have developed with our communities. It's made a huge difference. Once again, congratulations!"

Cindy Dickson
Executive Director, Arctic Athabaskan Council