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## GROUP 2

# INDIGI-NEXT: IN-PERSON GLOBAL SUMMITS

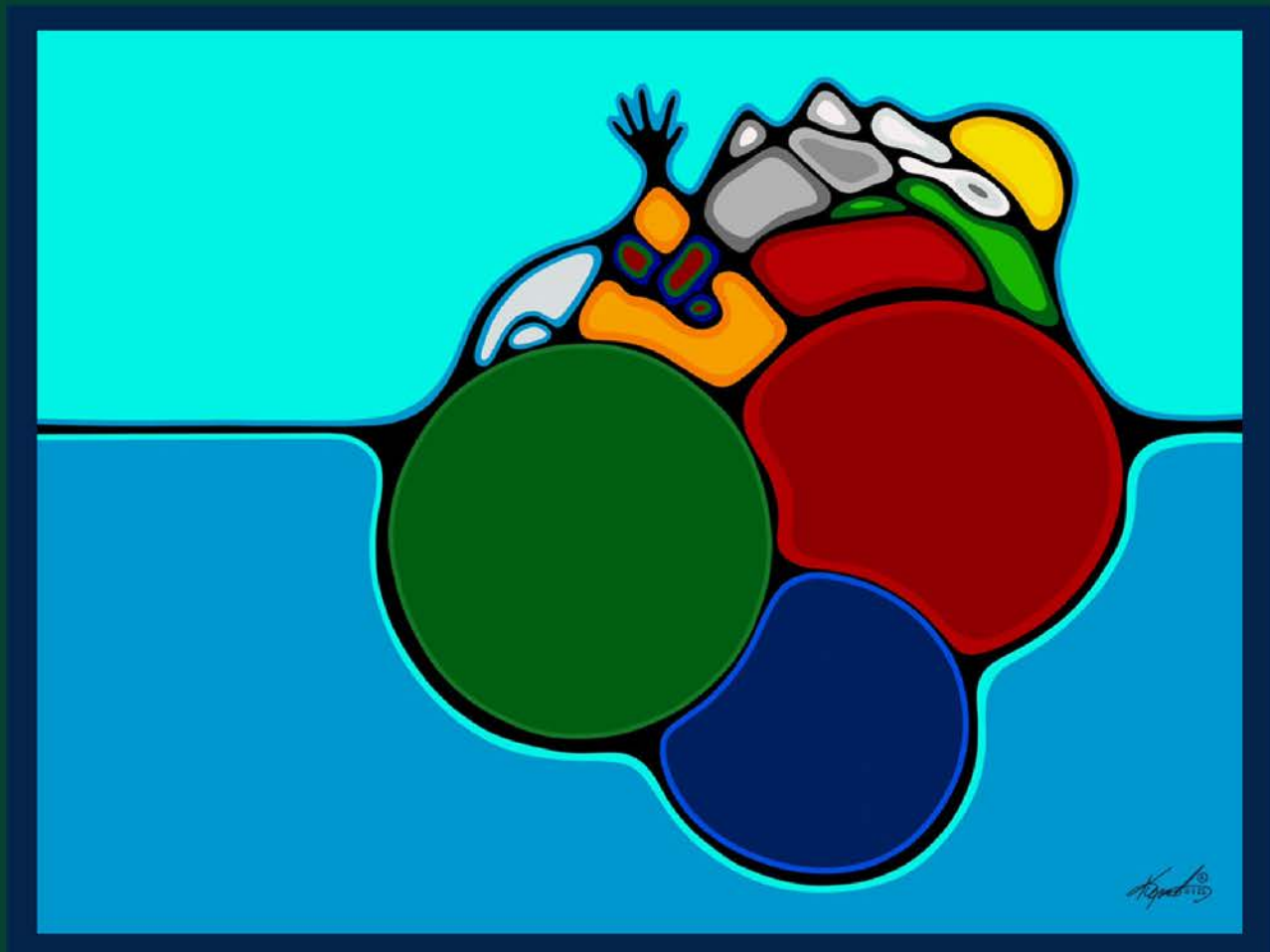
Connected through the strength of our lands and ancestors.

Combining powers for change and accelerating action through collaboration.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, Māori and Traditional Owners of what is now known as Australia as the lands we hail from.

We pay respect to our ancestors, whose strength and wisdom guide us, and to our natural environment for sustaining life and spirit on earth. We would like to acknowledge INDIGI-X organisers for this opportunity. To our kaumatua, Elders and alumni, immense thanks for your support and inspiration for paving the way for us.



Original artwork gifted to the INDIGI-X program by alumni Ken Letandre

# BACKGROUND

INDIGI-X brings Indigenous professionals virtually from Australia, Canada, and Aotearoa New Zealand for six weeks. Throughout these weeks, we have learned about each other's cultures, the challenges we face, and the diverse solutions and strengths our communities provide. Frankly, six weeks is not enough to harness participants' brilliance and deliver tangible outcomes. We want to take this to the next step by creating a five-day face-to-face summit run by Indigenous people for Indigenous people.

This summit will combine the superpowers of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples across Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, and Canada with building connections and accelerating action. This report will outline why we need this summit, how we envision an in-person summit working, and recommendations for the next steps.

For this proposal, the term Indigenous will be used interchangeably with First Nation (the inclusive term for Māori), Métis, and Inuit. We also acknowledge in some parts of Australia, the term Indigenous can be considered offensive. That is, it has scientific connotations which have been used historically to describe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as part of the 'flora/fauna' rather than the human population of Australia.



# BUSINESS CASE: INDIGI-X IN-PERSON GLOBAL SUMMIT

Our challenges are not unique. Through closer working relationships, lesson learning, joint funding, and mutual inspiration, INDIGI-Next can provide the platform for Indigenous to accelerate action and work together, building feasible and sustainable solutions for complex problems that we, as Indigenous people, are working to overcome.

While many great examples of Indigenous-led events focus on many important issues and challenges, INDIGI-X in-person summits are built on the foundation of theme/topic fluidity, innovation, and group collectivism to co-create topics and are solutions based. INDIGI-Next themes will honor what INDIGI-X was built on, discussing organic issues close to us that impact our families, communities, and world. Government buy-in and funding will be in place before each summit to support projects and ideas arising from discussions and business incubation side events to carry them through to action.

# A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Our research found that many forums already bring together Māori, First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples. We also found that there are many ways that these conferences could be enhanced to create a by-Indigenous, for-Indigenous summit, including:

- Dedicated time at the beginning of the summit to **connect** or **whakawhanaungatanga** with other attendees. This time will allow attendees to build relationships and understand each other's context before moving into discussions.
- A **focus on action** by ensuring that each session allows input from attendees, including business accelerators and solution exploration supported by innovation coaches.
- **A report at the end** of the conference highlights what was discussed and potential solutions. Implementation pathways. Including awarding funding and development support to promising solutions emerging from accelerator events.
- Space for the Indigenous people of the host country to set the form they want to conduct the conference to **align with their cultural values**. For example, following local tikanga in Aotearoa New Zealand.



# EVENT GOVERNANCE, FUNDING AND LOGISTICS:

## Rotating Country Hosts:

Each country will have the opportunity to host an international event, starting in Aotearoa New Zealand, Canada, and ending in Australia.



## Schedule:

Each host country will host an event for five days, with day one dedicated to networking and interacting with event hosts, program alums, elders, and youth. Each day will consist of fluid learning sessions, group dialogue, panels, digital public engagement platforms, and innovation and solutions break-out sessions. Upon the end of the event, a ticketed gala will be hosted, which the public and private sector will be invited to attend.



## Governance:

Each INDIGI-Next event would be organized by an INDIGI-X delegate governing committee with representatives from each country.

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## Funding:

We recommend that Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia and Canada's public and private sector entities provide coordinated support and resources. This could align with their commitments toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and private sector Reconciliation Actions Plans (if applicable), ESG and Corporate Responsibility commitments.

To ensure the summit is successful, we propose two phases of funding: seed funding and longer-term sustainable funding.

**Seed funding** will cover the first rotations of summits and come from the federal governments through Indigenous agencies and international cooperation agreements.

Governments will commit to supporting existing Memorandum of Understanding arrangements, i.e. the Indigenous Collaboration Agreement that was signed between the federal governments of Canada and Aotearoa New Zealand in 2022. INDIGI-X will seek similar commitment from Australia's federal Minister for Indigenous Australians

**Longer-term funding** will come from corporate sponsorship, ticket sales, and donations. Formal sponsorship for successful accelerator ideas will be sought before the event's commencement.

We also envision selling authentic arts and goods from First Nations, Métis, and Inuit businesses at the summit to raise awareness of these businesses and to supplement funding sources.

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## Attendance:

The summit discussions are intended for Indigenous people to share, learn, and develop solutions and are therefore open to any Indigenous person who feels they can contribute and participate towards building solutions.

Public and private sector sponsors are welcome at networking events and the closing gala but not at the discussion sessions. This space is saved for information, knowledge-sharing, and dialogue.

A report will be produced and shared with the public and private sector contributors to aid them in their work within their sector.





# RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1** We recommend that the **Canadian, Australian and New Zealand federal governments financially support** the pilot of an in-person conference branded as **“INDIGI-Next.”** INDIGI-Next conferences will take place over three years, beginning in Aotearoa New Zealand, Canada, and ending in Australia. The primary audience will be INDIGI-X alumnus, Elders, Youth, and the Public and Private sector.
- 2** **Event themes must be Indigenous-driven** and not public or private-sector driven. **Focussed on collaboration between the three countries,** conferences will be outcome-driven, producing summary reports and implementation pathways for ideas and solutions to be put into action.