



## LUMINARY: INDIGENOUS INNOVATION SUMMIT

Sheraton Wild Horse Pass  
Gila River Indian Community  
January 23,24,25, 2025



### **Arrive with Purpose – Leave with Action**

**Note: There will be video recording and photography**  
**All times are MST: Mountain Standard Time**

#### **About the Summit**

You and your Summit colleagues represent a microcosm of players in the Indigenous Innovation Eco-System that Luminary is seeking to advance and support. In the Summit we will be seeking your insights and ideas on a number of key questions and issues. We have described some key goals for this summit, and we have posed some key questions for you to address. The goals are:

Goal 1: To create a vision of what Indigenous innovation could look like ten years from now and how it could impact economic wellbeing in Canada, USA, and around the world. What are the principles and guidelines we should adopt to support this vision? What kind of knowledge, networks and research are needed?

Goal 2: To generate ideas on how best to foster more knowledge, collaborations, networks and research commercialization activity focused on Indigenous economic wellbeing issues and opportunities.

Goal 3: To explore how the new 2025 Business School Indigenous Engagement Survey (January – April 2025) survey and benchmarking tool can help us determine the current level of engagement among business schools and facilitate and increase the engagement among academics, business schools, and the Indigenous business community, to grow the Indigenous innovation eco-system in Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand and other countries, globally.

Goals 4: To garner your feedback and insights on some of the program concepts and design that Luminary could support to advance knowledge, networks, research, and talent.

## **The Current State of Innovation**

In their 2023 article in the Globe and Mail, authors Silcoff and O’Kane lamented the long-term potential of AI-fueled economic growth for Canada. Their storyline focused on innovation and the missed opportunities of failing to commercialize research knowledge. An indication of Canada’s lag in the innovation space can be measured by the lack of patents and their utilization of them. Compared with other countries, Canada’s patent pipeline has fallen behind. Moreover, government innovation strategies “have typically failed to leverage the country’s brains to produce economic growth.” This sentiment is echoed by other people and organizations. Canada has lost its way regarding innovation. Our nation scores a ‘C’ on The Conference Board of Canada’s Innovation Report Card, ranking 15th among 20 countries. Of the twenty-one innovation indicators, Canada scores below average on fourteen of the indicators. Canada ranks 15th in the 2023 Global Innovation Index (GII), and “innovation outputs have not improved”.

Although there are many pockets of success, Indigenous peoples and communities in Canada remain in a fragile state with metrics showing little upward trends. In their report on Indigenous Economic Progress (2019), the National Indigenous Economic Development Board examined a comprehensive range of socio-economic indicators. They note that ... ‘there are some (very modest) positive trends and improvements in specific markets and communities across Canada. However, no substantive changes have been made in the main socio-economic gaps which characterize Indigenous circumstances today.’

## **Luminary: Harnessing & Advancing the Indigenous Innovation Agenda**

The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has long taken the position that ‘innovative activity is the main driver of economic advancement and wellbeing’. Indigenous people want to pursue these important goals and to do so they will want to further enlist research and innovation as a catalyst to transform economies, employment, and wellbeing outcomes. An investment in Indigenous business innovation now will spell dividends in the near and far future. Conversely, the ‘cost of doing nothing’ will push Indigenous people further behind, and they cannot afford more setbacks at this juncture. We have an opportunity to harness and advance a new Indigenous innovation agenda.

The Luminary strategy seeks to develop and advance the Indigenous Innovation agenda by responding to two key issues which are constraining Indigenous prosperity: (i) A significant gap currently exists between post-secondary business schools, academic community, research agencies, and Indigenous community, and the systemic barriers to growing Indigenous-led research collaborations, research commercialization and business talent. (ii) Indigenous communities lack the means to mobilize new research knowledge and innovate new products, services and value creation which can grow and transform Indigenous economies. Research and innovation investments not only lead to stronger business and industry competitiveness, but they also enable new product and market expansions and create jobs.

## Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, Time zone MST

6:15pm-7:00pm 7:00pm	<p>Registration &amp; Reception &amp; Welcome: Kelly Lendsay &amp; Manley Begay</p> <p>Dinner &amp; Introductions &amp; My Innovation Story or Practice</p> <p>Appetizer: Dr Ohad Kadan, Dean, W. P. Carey School of Business, Arizona State University, <i>"Why Innovation Leadership Matters"</i>:</p> <p>Main Course: Dr Tasha Brooks, Royal Roads, <i>"Community Economic Development Corp &amp; Business Students address Food Security"</i></p> <p>Dessert: Dr Jason Mika, Auckland University NZ, <i>"Global Business School Engagement &amp; Trade"</i></p>
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## Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Time zone MST

7:30-8:30am 8:30am-9:30am	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Elder; Why we are here: Kelly Lendsay &amp; Dr. Manley Begay</p> <p>Benchmarking the Current State of Global Business School Indigenous Engagement: Kelly</p>
9:30am – 11:30am	<p>NASA Innovation Case Study: Dr Mark Maletz (Coffee/Tea arrives 10:00am)</p>
11:30pm-12:15	<p>Indigenous Innovation Agenda: How can the NASA Exercise and experience inform on developing the Indigenous Innovation Agenda. Manley &amp; Kelly</p>
12:15pm-1:30pm	<p>Lunch</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Governor Stephen Lewis, GILA INDIAN RIVER COMMUNITY <i>"Sharing Innovation Insights"</i></p>
1:30pm-2:45pm	<p>An Indigenous Innovation Illustration: <i>Building an Indigenous Seaweed Industry for Canada (the world)</i>. (15 minutes); Craig Hall</p> <p>What kind of knowledge, networks and research are needed to mobilize Indigenous innovation? Manley &amp; Kelly</p> <p>Team Exercise: START – STOP – CONTINUE</p> <p>What is one thing to continue doing? What is one thing to Stop doing? What is one thing to start doing?</p>
2:45pm-3:00pm	<p>Getting ready for day two</p>
3:00-6:30pm	<p>Hiking Mountain Trail (car pool); Hiking the Wild Horse Pass Resort Walking Trail, Pickleball at the Tennis Courts</p>
6:30pm	<p>Dinner</p> <p>Sharing Your Innovation Story or Practice</p>

## Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Time zone MST

7:00am-10:00am	Explore – Discover – Connect – Play - Hiking – Pickleball – Golf – other
10:00am - 10:15am	Get your Coffee/Tea and Get Ready
10:15am-12:30pm	<p>Engagement Discussions and Exercises: (100 minutes): <b>FOUR DIRECTIONS: COVERING THE COMPASS TEAM OF TEN; EACH TEAM GOES TO THE NORTH, EAST, SOUTH AND WEST FOR 20 MINUTES IN EACH DIRECTION TO DISCUSS KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH, VALUE CREATION/WELLBEING AND BUSINESS SCHOOL INDIGEGOGY. DISCUSS AND IDENTIFY i) PRINCIPLES, ii) PRACTICES, iii) ACTIONS</b></p> <p><b>NORTH – KNOWLEDGE (MANLEY):</b> What kind of collaborations and knowledge networks are needed to grow research and research knowledge focused on Indigenous economic and wellbeing priorities? What knowledge networks already exist within the USA, Australian, and New Zealand ecosystems that could be expanded into Canada, and visa versa? What is needed to accelerate and expand Indigenous-led research opportunities and innovation activities?</p> <p><b>EAST – RESEARCH: (KELLY):</b> Given the current state of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis socio-economic circumstances as well as what you know about nations' /communities' plans for development, what opportunities do you see for Indigenous-led research partnerships and what kinds of research knowledge could emerge from those research efforts that could be used to innovate Indigenous value-creation?</p> <p><b>SOUTH – VALUE CREATION &amp; WELLBEING: (CRAIG):</b> How will invigorated Indigenous-led research and commercial innovation provide value-creation and wellbeing for: a) Indigenous communities and businesses, (b) post secondary-research institutions, (c) business schools, (d) Indigenous research students and faculty?</p> <p><b>WEST - BUSINESS SCHOOL INDIGEGOGY – WEST (MARK):</b> How can we advance Indigenous worldviews, practices and concepts in business curricula? How do we use two-eyed-seeing to connect traditional and western knowledge? What is it about the design of the university curricula and programs that can attract significant numbers of Native Americans to US institutions? What could Canadian schools learn from these approaches to grow Canada's Indigenous post-secondary enrollments?</p>
12:30pm-2:00pm	Lunch: The Indigenous Innovation Trajectory: An Economic & Wellbeing Imperative -- George Lafond (Luminary Advisor, former SK Treaty Commissioner); Former Chief Cadmus Delorme (Flowing River Capital); Edmund Bellegarde, former chief and CEO TFHQ Developments, Darrel Balkwill, CEO Dakota Whitecap Developments

<b>2:00pm-2:30pm</b>	<b>THE TRUST FACTOR: Mark &amp; Kelly</b>
<b>2:30pm-3:30 pm</b>	<b>Plenary Open Session - What we Heard</b>  <b>a. KNOWLEDGE NORTH, b. RESEARCH EAST c. VALUE CREATION/WELLBEING SOUTH d. BUSINESS SCHOOL INDIGEGOGY WEST</b>  <b>Based on what you have heard and shared, build the action agenda. What kind of programs, services and tools will support Luminary partners? How is this contributing to the Indigenous innovation agenda? How are business schools, Indigenous business and the academic community becoming more engaged? What impact will we make in terms of economic wellbeing? How can you or your organization or your network work with Luminary to advance an action agenda?</b>
<b>3:30 pm</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
<b>3:30 -4:15</b>	<b>Sharing Circle</b> <b>Share two thoughts and reflections, actions, take-aways</b>
<b>4:15:4:30</b>	<b>Summary &amp; Adjourn</b>
<b>5:00-6:00pm</b>	<b>Closing Reception: Luminary Summit Leaders and Indigenous Works Board of Directors</b>
<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Free Evening</b>

## Luminary SSF Objectives 2024-2029

1. Grow the knowledge and strategies among the business school community to increase Indigenous business student and research talent with Indigenized curriculum, pedagogy and innovation initiatives.
2. Increase knowledge and competencies in co-designing Indigenous-led research models and collaborations.
3. Increase research and innovation collaborations among post-secondary business school's and academic institutions, research agencies, Indigenous businesses, Indigenous organizations and public and private sector stakeholders.
4. Produce new knowledge assets through Indigenous research and innovation projects and programs.
5. Conduct a Business School Indigenous Engagement Scan to determine the current level and types of engagement and to identify engagement priorities and needs.
6. Increase the capacity, talent, knowledge and cultural competency of business schools, post-secondary institutions, research agencies and the Indigenous business community to grow Indigenous business talent and create multidisciplinary Indigenous-led research and innovation collaborations that produce economic and wellbeing outcomes through an improved Indigenous innovation eco-system.

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