

Position Description

Position: Director of Corporate Engagement
Status: Exempt
Reports to: President and Managing Director
Supervisor: Managing Director

First Peoples Worldwide is an international Indigenous Peoples organization that deploys market-based strategies for securing a voice and affecting change based upon the holistic worldview of Indigenous cultures. The mission of First Peoples builds upon a foundation of Indigenous values to achieve a sustainable future for all. By supporting Indigenous communities and engaging key political, economic and social institutions, together we innovate and demonstrate solutions that combine the best of Indigenous and contemporary practice. Through our grantmaking program, Keepers of the Earth, small grants go directly to Indigenous communities to design and implement their strategies for sustainable development. Through our advocacy program we work with governments and the private sector to affect change. The Director of Corporate Engagement is responsible for harnessing the influence of companies and investors through collaborative dialogue with Indigenous Peoples, changing the business model to benefit Mother Earth to the seventh generation.

Principal Job Responsibilities

- Manage the relationships and projects involving Indigenous communities and corporations working in or affecting Indigenous territories. This includes shareholder dialogues, corporate engagement, and representation on key accountability mechanisms such as the Global Reporting Initiative, Roundtable for Responsible Aluminum, ICCM, IPEICA, and others.
- Provide the analysis, assess the performance of companies, and make recommendations necessary to achieve the Free Prior Informed Consent of communities and respect the self-determination and decisions of Indigenous communities where they do business.
- Develop new tools for bridging cultures, engaging communities, and interacting with corporate leaders and their agents in helping them develop the listening and other skills necessary to perform in meaningful processes of engagement that transform the business model and development projects.
- Lead, facilitate, and participate in company trainings and industry gatherings, to challenge conventional thinking and suggest new ways of seeing things based on Indigenous principles and values.
- Coordinate, facilitate, and participate in Indigenous community trainings and regional gatherings and learning exchanges to share information on corporate performance and negotiation experiences.
- Research developments in corporate-Indigenous relations, self-determination and liberation efforts on the part of Indigenous Peoples and organizations, stay current on news events, trends and corporate practices; report on this research through regular Indigenous Peoples news postings as well as specialized reports on trends and forecasts for Indigenous self-determination on a monthly basis.
- Utilize media hooks to raise Indigenous Peoples' issues in mainstream media via op-eds and other opportunities.

Experience & Abilities

- Five years or more of direct experience working on sustainability and corporate responsibility issues in the corporate, investor or non-profit sectors.
- In-depth knowledge of ESG issues and an understanding of corporations (including reporting and business strategy tools).
- Excellent writing, speaking and interpersonal skills -- able to take complex topics and popularize them for diverse audiences.
- Able to understand what is important to an audience (e.g., corporate-oriented people) and to raise Indigenous Peoples' concerns in ways they can understand and appreciate.
- Work independently and entrepreneurially on multiple projects while also being part of a team sharing lessons with colleagues, both internal and external, and contributing to the overall mission of the organization.
- Travel-ready, able to work long hours with diverse cultures.
- Appreciation for values of sharing, reciprocity, fairness, egalitarianism, and seeing through the lens of others.

Organizational Attributes

- Dedicated team, with range of experiences and interests.
- Stands at an interesting place between communities, government institutions and agencies and corporations -- acts as a bridge and conversation starter.
- Long history as tool developer and framer of new concepts -- catalyzing different perspectives among all we touch.