



CONFERENCE

Aboriginal Self-Governance in North America:

Dreams and Realities since 1970

Friday and Saturday, April 27-28, 2012

**The Gifford Room, 221 Kroeber Hall, UC
Berkeley**

organized and hosted by

the Canadian Studies Program,

UC Berkeley

**with the support of the Bluma Appel Fund in
Canadian Studies**

Background

The Canadian Studies Program at UC Berkeley is inviting academic and aboriginal leaders, as well as members of the public, to a conference on Aboriginal Self-Governance in North America.. We will explore several important issues:

- What is the current situation of Aboriginal self-governance for each of Canada's four Aboriginal Communities: Status Indians, Non-Status Indians, the Métis, and the Inuit?
- What range of self-governance models were developed over the past four decades and which of these models have proven successful and under what conditions and circumstances?
- What other possible models of self-governance are available that might be useful for the expanding urban and suburban Aboriginal populations, particularly in the Western Canadian provinces? What might be learned from U. S. experiences and perspectives?

Friday keynote dinner by invitation only

All Saturday sessions free and open to the public and press.

Participant [bios](#)

***Rapporteur's* [summary](#) (with links to presentations where available)**

Partial list of relevant [links](#)

Schedule

Friday, April 27 Conference dinner, by invitation only, International House

Keynote Speaker:

J.R. (Jim) Miller, Canada Research Chair in Native-Newcomer Relations and Professor of History at the University of Saskatchewan

"Aboriginal Self-Government: Past, Present, and Future"

Saturday, April 28 The Gifford Room, 221 Kroeber Hall

9:00 Registration, continental breakfast

9:25 Welcome by Nelson Graburn, Director of Canadian

Studies Program

9:30–11:00 Session 1: Historical Background

Chair/discussant: Beth Piatote, Native American Studies, UC Berkeley (Nez Perce)

Michael Behiels, History, University of Ottawa (Visiting Scholar at UC Berkeley), “The National Indian Brotherhood/Assembly of First Nations: Mega-Constitutional Reform and the Quest for Self-Governance: 1968–1982”

Robert Talbot, History, University of Ottawa, “Métis and Non-Status Indian Organizations in the Era of Mega-Constitutional Politics”

Gordon Christie, Law, University of British Columbia (Inuvialuit/Inupiat), “The Trap of Historical-Legal Narratives: Aboriginal Rights to Governance in Canadian Law”

Cheryl Suzack, English, University of Toronto (Batchewana First Nations), “Local Self-Determination Struggle in Canada and its Gender Implications”

11:00–11:30 Plenary discussion

11:30–12:30 Buffet lunch for all attendees

12:30–2:00 Session 2: Case Studies

Chair/discussant: Nelson Graburn, Anthropology/Canadian Studies, UC Berkeley

Teresa Edwards, Native Women’s Association of Canada (Mi’kmaq, Listuguj First Nation), “Reclaiming Our Nations: Gathering Women’s Wisdom”

Minnie Grey, Makivik Corporation (Nunavik Inuit), “Nunavik Government: Appraisal and Solutions to Impasse”

Charlotte Coté, American Indian Studies, University of Washington (Tseshaht/Nuu-cha-nulth), “Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council: Past, Present, and Future”

2:00–2:30 Plenary discussion

2:30–3:00 Coffee break

3:00–4:30 Session 3: Models for the Future and U.S.

Perspectives

Chair/discussant: Shari Huhndorf, Native American Studies, UC Berkeley (Yup’ik)

Michelle Hale, American Indian Studies Program, Arizona State University (Navajo, Laguna, Chippewa, and Ottawa), “Diné Naachid: Modern Navajo Government and the Political Tradition

of Local Control”

Roy Huhndorf, Alaskan Native leader (Yup’ik), “Alaska Native Politics Since the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act”

Alexis Buntin, IPinCH (Intellectual Property Issues in Cultural Heritage; Bristol Bay Alaska), “Comparative Legal Frameworks for Self-Governance”

4:30–5:30 Plenary discussion

[UCB Canadian Studies Home Page](#)

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